

**INTRODUCTION AND GROWTH OF *GRACILARIA EDULIS*,
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Agarophyte, *Gracilaria edulis* was not occurring in Minicoy lagoon (Kaliaperumal et al. Bull.CMFRI., 43 :1989). With a view to bringing in this commercially important resource into the vast lagoon of Minicoy Island, seed material of *G.edulis* was introduced from Kavaratti Island (Lakshadweep, 400 Km north of Minicoy) and Gulf of Mannar (Mandapam) in the year March 1990. This report brings out the successful establishment, sustained growth into a standing crop of *G. edulis* in Minicoy lagoon, where *G.edulis* was not occurring prior to the introduction.

The seed material (fronds) was transported by ship to Minicoy and after a few days of acclimatization in the lagoon waters, the fronds of *G. edulis* were introduced in long coir ropes and rope nets under floating conditions at four sites (Navodaya School, Fisheries Jetty, Helipad and Light House) in Minicoy lagoon. The surplus fronds were broadcast in the culture sites. Excess fronds harvested subsequently from each culture trials were similarly discarded into the lagoon. These fronds and those fragmented from culture nets/ropes by mechanical means are noticed to have settled down on the seagrass beds and

established through natural growth.

Standing crop of *G.edulis* at the two sites, Fisheries Jetty and Navodaya School were determined in a quadrant of a 0.25 sq.m. area at random. The harvestible biomass at Navodaya School ranged from nil to 300g/ quadrant and the standing crop was 15 kg in an area of two sq.km, whereas at the Fisheries Jetty, the biomass ranged from nil to 125g/ quadrant and the standing crop was 3 kg in an area of two sq.km. The growth of *G.edulis* in the floor was more encouraging at Navodaya School site than in the Fisheries Jetty site. At Helipad and Light House sites natural growth of *G.edulis* was practically nil probably due to shallow depth and the heavy epiphytic growth.

As the introduced agarophyte, *G.edulis* started establishing successfully in the beds as well as in culture rafts, the non availability of *G.edulis* in Minicoy lagoon may be due to the geographical isolation and this may not be due to any other biotic or abiotic factors.

Asian Bank helping China

According to reports, the Asian Development Bank has approved technical assistance of US \$ 595,000 by way of grants to China, to study ways and means of developing and managing their fisheries including coastal marine resources in the East China sea. Readers will be aware that the East China sea covers an area of nearly 8,00,000 sq.km. The Zhoushan fishing ground in the East China Sea is understood to have been selected as the project area because of its potential and economical viability.

The Chinese Government sought assistance from ADB, alarmed by the deterioration of marine resources because of degradation of the marine environment.

It is believed that the technical assistance given by

ADB will go a long way in regenerating and conserving the fisheries, particularly of the Zhoushan fishing ground.

The project will be managed by the State Oceanic Administration which has been nominated as the executive agency for administering the technical assistance.

China Establishes Fish Lab

In a North China city (Tianjin) a laboratory to treat and to prevent fish diseases is reported to have been established.

It is stated that with intensive cultivation of fish, the incidence of fish diseases is on the increase, in Tianjin's 6,000 ha. of fish ponds.

This situation attracted the attention of specialists, and they have decided to establish the laboratory to prevent incidence of diseases in fish and to endeavour to cure them.