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Title : Need to retain an strengthen CIFRI unit of Indian Council of Agricultural Research at Alappuzha, Kerala.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Tsunami has caused great devastation in terms of life, property, environmental damages and fishery changes. In this respect several countries where Tsunami has affected have initiated impact assessment studies to gauge the changes on the geological, environmental and fishery aspects. In the backwaters of Kerala, the fishermen are very strongly demanding for conducting Sub-ecological studies to understand the fishery changes due to tsunami. There have also been media reports cautioning the change in the habit of several species of fishes like puffer fish causing severe damage to fishing gears. In this context, there wasn't any serious research programmes conducted to elicit the post tsunami changes in the backwaters and Inland Sector of Kerala to assess the ecological status vis-À-vis the fishing resources. In order to achieve this the CIFRI unit of ICAR in Alappuzha has be continued and strengthened by providing staff and equipments to conduct new studies on the impact of tsunami in Inland Fishing Sector.