

# OLEEVIA FOUNDATION'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKSHOP ON DRONE APPLICATIONS IN FISHERIES AND DISCUSSION WITH NFDB



We are thrilled to share highlights from Oleevia Foundation's participation in the insightful one-day workshop on Drone Applications in Fisheries. This workshop was hosted at the CMFRI (Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute) Headquarters in Kochi and inaugurated by Shri. George Kurian, Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Minority Affairs, Government of India.

## Workshop Overview

The event kicked off with an engaging keynote from Shri. George Kurian, focusing on the importance of integrating drone technology in fisheries management. Drones are increasingly recognized as valuable tools in modern fisheries for applications such as:

- **Resource Monitoring:** Mapping fish stock, coral reefs, and coastal health.
- **Surveillance and Compliance:** Supporting regulatory frameworks through real-time monitoring of fishing zones and restricted areas.
- **Environmental Assessment:** Assessing the impacts of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems.

Attendees had the opportunity to witness live demonstrations of various types of drones and understand their potential use cases in fisheries. These demonstrations showcased how drones can be employed for tracking fish populations, assessing water quality, and collecting valuable data for sustainable fisheries management.



## Discussions on Funding Opportunities with NFDB

We also had the privilege of discussing potential funding avenues with a member from the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). The NFDB representative graciously introduced a range of funding programs and support systems designed to empower fisher communities and advance their livelihoods. Below are some of the key schemes discussed:

- **National Fisheries Digital Platform:** To centralize resources, knowledge, and updates related to fisheries, enhancing accessibility for fishermen. The platform aims to make essential information on fisheries operations, including seasonal variations and market trends, schemes etc.,
- **Group Insurance Schemes:** This scheme is tailored to ensure the welfare of fisher families by providing financial assistance in cases of unforeseen circumstances. Group insurance for fishermen helps mitigate risks associated with the profession.
- **Fund for Fishermen Cooperatives (₹5 Lakh):** Aimed at promoting community-based organizations, this fund provides up to ₹5 lakh for establishing cooperatives. These cooperatives empower fishermen to engage in collective marketing, negotiate fair prices, and invest in essential resources, ultimately improving income stability and self-sufficiency within coastal communities.
- **Coastal Village Development Program:** This initiative aims to uplift the standard of living in coastal communities by developing infrastructure, enhancing healthcare access, improving education, and promoting sustainable practices in fishing. The program aligns with the vision of integrated coastal development and addresses socioeconomic needs in coastal villages.



## Opportunities for Oleevia Foundation

Through these interactions, we identified potential partnerships and funding pathways for Oleevia Foundation. Collaborating with the Fisheries Department and NFDB could unlock resources to support Oleevia's initiatives for fishermen in areas such as:

- Building Fishermen Cooperatives
- Establishing insurance and financial security systems for fishing families
- Facilitating access to the National Fisheries Digital Platform
- Implementing drones and modern tools for more effective resource management and environmental conservation.

Our next steps will involve deeper research and possibly formalizing proposals to secure these partnerships.