



Govt to discourage use of banned nets

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By Our Correspondent

THATTA, Dec 16: The Director-General of Sindh Fisheries, Ghulam Mohammad Mahar, said here on Thursday that the government has taken steps to discourage use of banned nets.

At a seminar organised by Indus for All Programme, WWF, at Keti Bandar he said that use of banned nets was having a negative impact on fish resources and asked fishermen community to voluntarily stop this practice.

Mr Mahar said that the fishermen had been earning their livelihood through traditional methods and if use of illegal nets was not stopped immediately, they would lose their livelihood.

He added that government was promoting crab and shrimp farming in Thatta and Badin and, in this regard, 20,000 acres of lands had been acquired to establish farms. He added that Karachi was a major market which needed to be capitalised for fisheries. He said that in Keti Bandar reverse osmosis plant had been installed to provide potable water to fishermen.

The Programme Coordinator of WWF, Nasir Ali Panhwar, said that rich agricultural lands in Indus delta have now become saline by sea intrusion, as the flow of fresh water from the Indus was no more available. He added that as a result communities depending on agriculture turned to fisheries.

The trend of over fishing has created unsustainable methods of fishing practices, which ultimately had to be banned by the government. He said that WWF was working closely with the communities in Keti Bandar to encourage fisherfolk to abandon banned nets.

Site Managers of WWF, Ghulam Rasool Khatri and Hafeezullah, giving background of the initiative, said that cold storage tanks had been provided to fishermen to reduce fish losses. They said that with the support of community, crab ponds had also been established. They said that beneficiary community would plant mangroves in their area. On this occasion two boats, three engines and five legal nets were handed over to fishermen of village Bhoru of Khobar Creek.

On the occasion, Director Sindh Coastal Community Development Project, Khawar Pervez Awan, Deputy Project Director BBSYD Aslam Jarwar and Akhtar Samoon of the Coastal Community Development Project also spoke.

<http://www.dawn.com/2010/12/17/govt-to-discourage-use-of-banned-nets.html>