S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM EXPO & BUSINESS MEET

Value Chains, Climate Solutions, and Blue Economy Pathways

Dates: **5 – 7 March, 2026**

Venue: **KUFOS, Kochi, India**

Organised by

Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS)

www.seaweeds2026.in

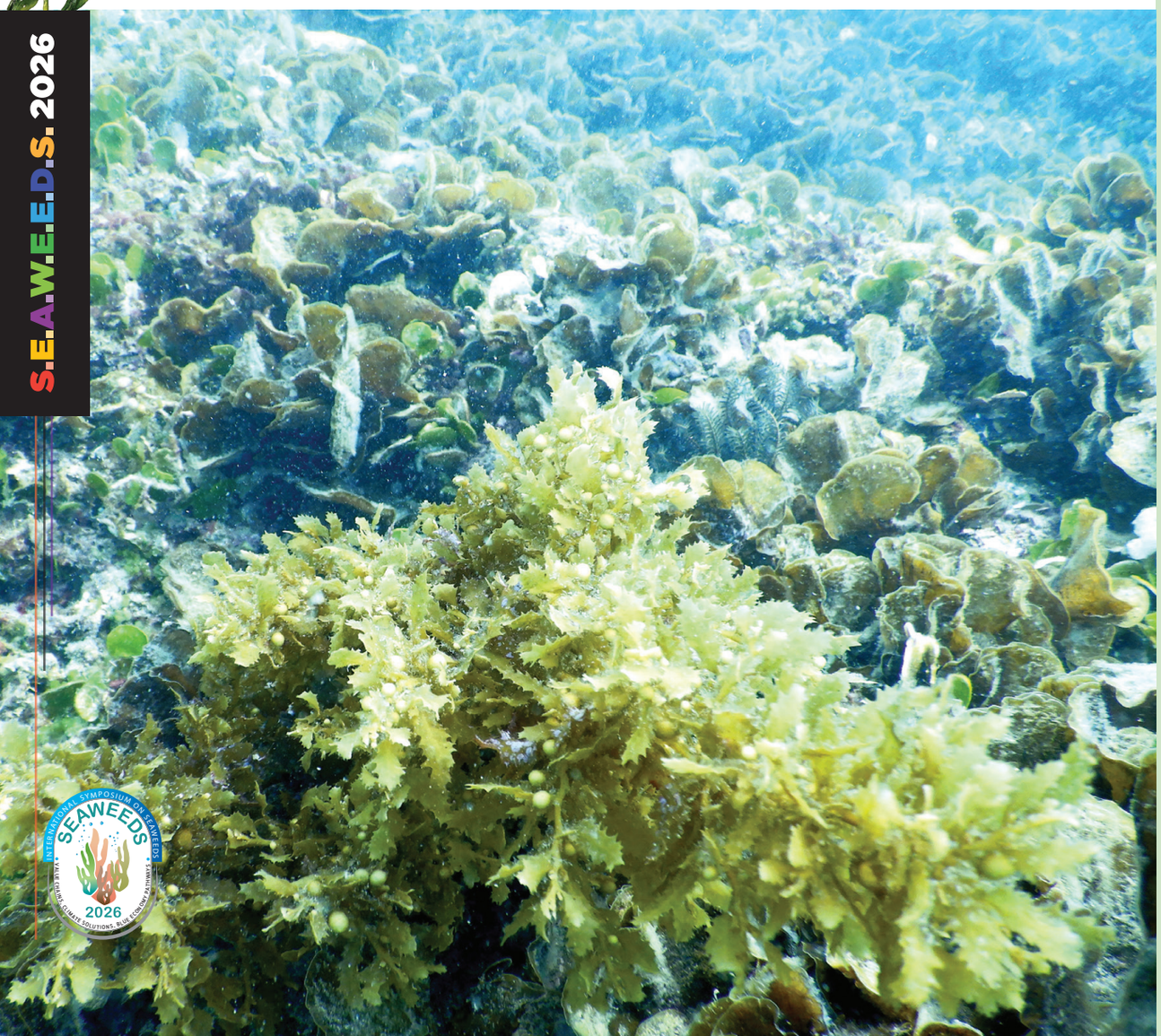
In collaboration with

Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA)

Seaweed Research and Utilisation Association (SRUA)

Forum of Traditional Fisherman Associations (FOTA)

THE PROMISE OF THE SEA
S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026



The global marine biotechnology sector is rapidly evolving, with seaweed emerging as a powerhouse of sustainable resources. From food and pharmaceuticals to environmental services and climate solutions, these "forests of the sea" are among the most productive and ecologically vital marine resources on Earth. Recognizing this immense potential and India's burgeoning 'Blue Economy' initiatives, we are proud to host the inaugural **S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026: International Symposium on Seaweeds: Value Chains, Climate Solutions, and Blue Economy Pathways,** an expo and business meet. This landmark event, the first of its kind in India, aims to bring together leading scientists, policymakers, industry stakeholders, and researchers from across the globe to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and accelerate the sustainable development of the seaweed sector.

With its expansive coastline and favourable climatic conditions, India holds immense untapped potential for seaweed cultivation and industry. While global seaweed production has soared, India's own industry is still in its nascent stages despite an estimated standing stock of approximately 7 million tonnes. This is a critical opportunity, as the multifaceted value of seaweeds underpins their importance for a sustainable future. They can help mitigate climate change by sequestering CO_2, provide sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities, and serve as rich sources for food, nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, and industrial applications like biofuels and bioplastics. Furthermore, seaweed ecosystems support marine biodiversity and act as crucial nursery grounds for fish. Realizing this potential requires a strategic and collaborative approach to build sustainable seaweed value chains that align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promote climate resilience, and generate coastal livelihoods.

The symposium will catalyze this growth by focusing on the latest innovations across the entire value chain, from advanced cultivation techniques and biorefinery processes to novel applications. It will provide a crucial platform to critically examine existing challenges, including scaling production, ensuring quality, and navigating regulatory frameworks. Through expert presentations, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities, participants will collaborate to chart a course for a vibrant and sustainable future for the Indian seaweed industry.

Programme Highlights

- **Plenary Lectures**
- **Mini Symposia**
- **Business Meet**
- **Expo**
- **Interaction with seaweed farmers**
- **Hands-on Workshops**
- **Release of a Vision Document:** "India's Seaweed Roadmap 2030"

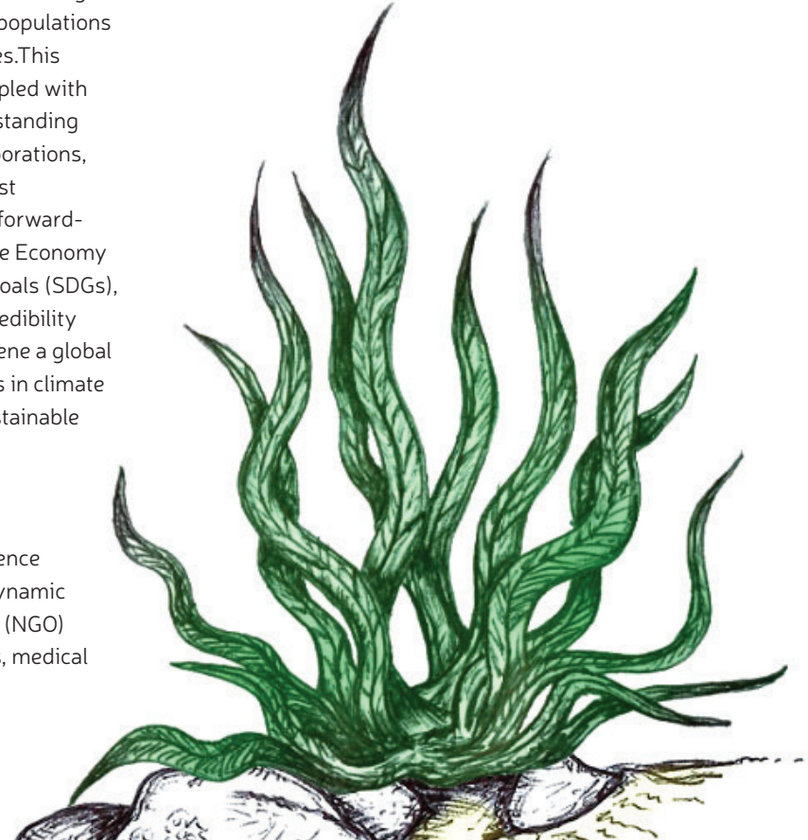
ORGANISERS

KUFOS | http://kufos.ac.in

The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), India's first dedicated university for fisheries and ocean sciences, stands at the forefront of advancing knowledge and sustainable utilization of marine resources. Over the years, KUFOS has built substantial expertise in seaweed research, covering biology, cultivation technologies, processing, value addition, and the characterization of indigenous species with diverse biochemical and industrial applications. Its faculty and researchers have not only contributed to the science of sustainable aquaculture, but have also played a vital role in community-oriented seaweed farming initiatives, empowering coastal populations with new livelihood opportunities.This strong research foundation, coupled with modern infrastructure and longstanding national and international collaborations, uniquely positions KUFOS to host S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026. With its forward-looking vision aligned to the Blue Economy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), KUFOS brings both academic credibility and practical leadership to convene a global dialogue on the role of seaweeds in climate resilience, food security, and sustainable economic pathways.

CISSA | www.cissa.co.in

The Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) is a dynamic non-governmental organization (NGO) comprising scientists, engineers, medical practitioners, academicians, and social workers united by a shared vision for a sustainable future. With a strong tradition of working closely with communities—particularly through the coordination of farmer producer companies—CISSA brings extensive grassroots experience to its initiatives. The organization has successfully hosted major international events such as the International Biodiversity Congress (IBC), the Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF), and Annam: The Good Food Festival, creating platforms that bridge science, innovation, and society. At its core, CISSA is dedicated to translating scientific knowledge and innovative ideas into tangible benefits for people and the planet.



SRUA | http://www.geocities.com/sruaindia

The Seaweed Research and Utilisation Association is a Non-Governmental Organisation established in 1970 at the initiative of Prof. V. Krishnamurthy, a pioneer in algology, and registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. The association publishes the journal "Seaweed Research and Utilisation" since 1971. The association aims to promote cutting-edge research on various aspects of seaweed biology and the potential application of different seaweed species for human consumption, industrial applications and conservation. The Association has been organising Symposia, Seminars, Trainings and Workshops for the benefit of Academia, Industry, Government and the Coastal community on the economic and ecological importance of seaweed resources.

FOTA

The Forum of Traditional Fisherman Associations (FOTA), based in Andhra Pradesh, is a collective that champions the rights and livelihoods of traditional fishing communities. FOTA actively promotes networking among fisher groups, creating stronger platforms for collaboration and shared growth. Through targeted training programs, the organization helps fishers enhance their incomes from sustainable fishing practices while also providing opportunities for alternate livelihoods. Notably, FOTA has been at the forefront of capacity-building in seaweed farming, equipping traditional fishers with new skills and linking them with academicians, aquaculture experts, and allied communities. With its strong community base and forward-looking approach, FOTA plays a vital role in empowering fishers and diversifying livelihood opportunities in the coastal economy.

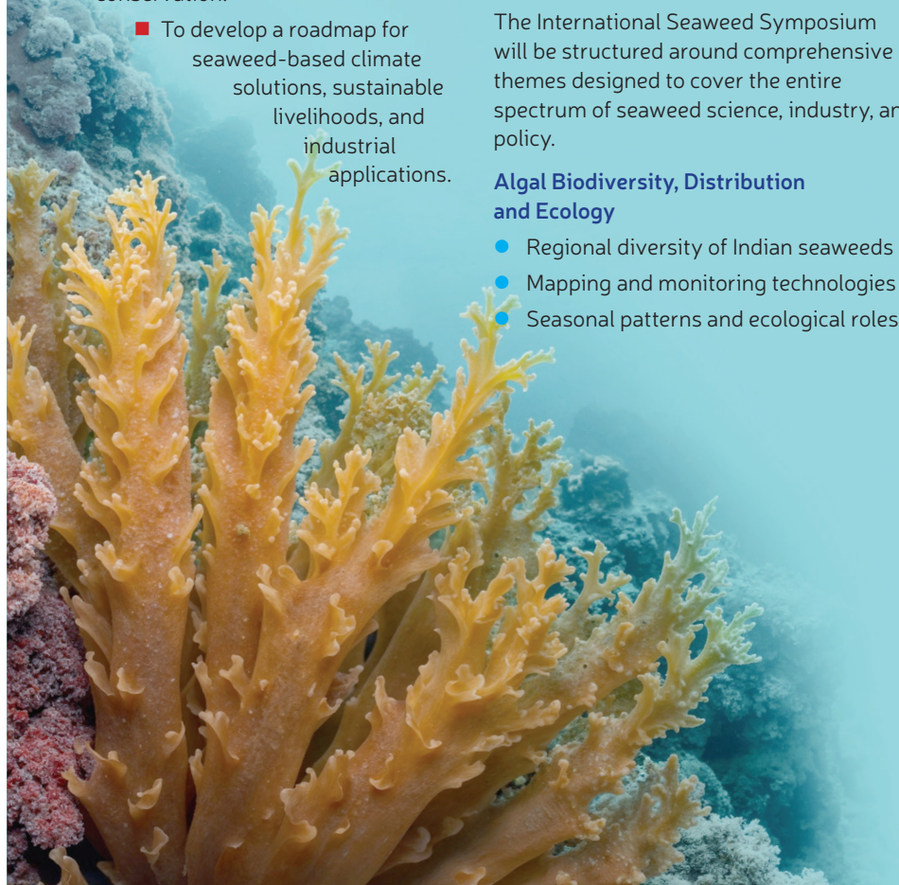
We look forward to your valuable partnership in making **S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026** a milestone event for India's blue economy and sustainable future. Join us at **S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026** as we aim to highlight the ecological and economic power of seaweed, foster global collaboration, and develop a clear roadmap for building a resilient, sustainable, and profitable seaweed industry in India.

S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026

OBJECTIVES OF THE SYMPOSIUM

The primary objectives of **S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026: International Symposium on Seaweeds: Value Chains, Climate Solutions, and Blue Economy Pathways** will be:

- To highlight the ecological, economic, and social significance of seaweeds in the context of the blue economy and SDGs.
- Facilitate knowledge transfer and exchange of best practices among global and national experts as well as local stakeholders in seaweed research, cultivation, value addition, and biodiversity conservation.
- To develop a roadmap for seaweed-based climate solutions, sustainable livelihoods, and industrial applications.
- To foster collaboration between academia, industry, policymakers, and local communities for building a resilient seaweed value chain in India.
- Increase awareness among the public and industry about the multi-faceted benefits of seaweeds, especially their role as functional foods.
- Formulate actionable recommendations for policy development and technological adoption to accelerate the growth of the Indian seaweed sector



KEY THEMES AND SUB-THEMES OF THE SYMPOSIUM

The International Seaweed Symposium will be structured around comprehensive themes designed to cover the entire spectrum of seaweed science, industry, and policy.

Algal Biodiversity, Distribution and Ecology

- Regional diversity of Indian seaweeds
- Mapping and monitoring technologies
- Seasonal patterns and ecological roles

Genomics and Selective Breeding of Economically Important Seaweeds

- Omics technologies in algal improvement
- Molecular tools for strain selection and Conservation Genetics

Seaweed Associations and Marine Biodiversity

- Ecological interdependence
- Role of seaweeds in marine ecosystem health

Sustainable seaweed cultivation and aquaculture

- Best practices in cultivation (land, coastal, offshore, IMTA)
- Technological advancements in seeding, harvesting, and post-harvest handling.
- Disease management and biosecurity in seaweed farms.
- Policy and governance for aquaculture expansion

Seaweed as Functional Food and Nutraceuticals

- Innovation in seaweed-based food product development
- Standardization, certification, and quality control for seaweed products.
- Post-harvest processing and logistics
- Strategies for increasing consumer awareness and acceptance
- Novel processes for food, feed and industrial application

Industrial Applications and Value Chain Development

- Biofuels, bioplastics, and green chemistry
- Pharmaceuticals and cosmeceuticals
- Animal feed and aqua feed
- Biofertilizers and biostimulants
- Biorefinery approaches for zero waste utilization

Restoration and Conservation of Seaweed Habitats

- Techniques for reef and meadow restoration
- Role in habitat regeneration and fisheries enhancement
- Responsible conservation of seaweeds – policies and implications

Seaweeds and Climate Change

- Blue carbon accounting and policy integration
- Adaptation and resilience through seaweed ecosystems

The Future of Global Seaweed Bio banking

- Integration of biobanking with conservation efforts
- Ethical frameworks and data-sharing models
- Role of India in a global biodiversity initiative

Empowering Coastal Women and Youth in Seaweed Value Chains

- Gender equity in seaweed cooperatives
- Case studies from SHGs and FPOs
- Viable formal financing models seaweed enterprises
- Capacity building and entrepreneurship programs
- Digital skilling and inclusion of tribal and marginal communities

Advancing the Blue: Strategies for India's Seaweed Sector

- Linking seaweed strategy with India's Blue Economy policy
- National and international policies
- Global Biodiversity Framework/KMGBF
- Investment opportunities, market access, and value chain development.
- Risk management mechanism for cultivators.
- Socio-economic impact of seaweed farming on coastal communities.
- Digital tools and AI in seaweed monitoring and management.
- Business incubation and coastal entrepreneurship

S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION CATEGORY	PARTICIPATION FEE
Indian Delegates	
Indian Delegates	₹6,000/-
Students	₹2,000/-
Start-ups	₹4,000/-
Exposition Stall	₹2.5 Lakhs
International Delegates	
Delegates	US$ 200/-
Students	US$ 100/-

Note:

- Only registered participants will have the privilege of attending the scientific sessions, special sessions, programme lunch, tea and dinner.
- Local taxes will be added as applicable (GST 18%)
- Registration will not be confirmed until the payment has been received.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Researchers , industry professional, policy makers and students ae invited to submit their abstract online on or before 15th December 2025 in the thematic areas mentioned above. Delegates whose abstracts are accepted for presentation at **S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026** will be required to register for the symposium.

Submission Format Guidelines:

- Font : Times New Roman 12
- Title : Capitals and Bold
- Authors : Italics and Bold, and the presenting author also underlined. Include affiliations of all authors and the e-mail address of the presenting author
- Abstract Max 250 words, not including the title, authors and affiliations.
- Figures, tables and graphics submitted in the abstract must follow the standard formatting set out in ACS rules available at https://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/submission_guide
- **Abstract Deadline : 15th December, 2025.**
- **Submission Link:** https://seaweeds2026.in/abstract-submission.

IMPORTANT DATES

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
OCTOBER 1, 2025 – DECEMBER 15, 2025

DATE OF REGISTRATION
NOVEMBER 1, 2025 – FEBRUARY 20, 2026

ACCEPTANCE
JANUARY 15, 2026

FEATURES OF S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026

- TECHNICAL SESSIONS
- POSTER PRESENTATION
- WORKSHOP BUSINESS MEET
- SEAWEED PRODUCTS EXPO

EVENT SCHEDULE

5 MARCH
- Technical Sessions
- Products Expo

6 MARCH
- Technical Sessions
- Workshop
- Poster Presentation
- Products Expo

7 MARCH
- Technical Sessions
- Round table
- Business Meet
- Products Expo

S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026

SEAWEED EXPO 'FROM SHORE TO SHELF'

The Seaweed Expo, organized alongside the Symposium, will serve as a dynamic interface between research, industry, investors, and consumers. It will showcase the breadth of applications, innovations, and commercial potential of seaweeds in the context of the blue economy.

Objectives:

Showcase Innovations: Exhibit the latest products, technologies, and services in seaweed cultivation, processing, and utilization.

Industry-Academia Collaboration: Enable matchmaking between start-ups, academia, and investors to foster innovation and commercialization.

Public Engagement: Raise awareness among the general public, students, and aspiring entrepreneurs about multifaceted values of seaweeds.

Key Zones:

Product Pavilion: Functional foods, cosmeceuticals, pharmaceuticals, and nutraceuticals.

Technology Zone: Cultivation rigs, harvesting tools, post-harvest and biorefinery technologies, climate-smart innovations.

Start-up & Innovation Hub: Early-stage ventures, student-led ideas, AI & digital monitoring tools.

Blue Economy Showcase: Government initiatives, global best practices, funding programs, and international case studies.

Farmer & Community Corner: Experiences from coastal farmers, SHGs, and cooperatives, particularly from India's eastern and western coasts.

Hands-on Booths: Live demos of value-added seaweed products

The Expo will serve as a dynamic marketplace and exhibition showcasing the latest innovations and commercial applications in the seaweed sector.

The participants can showcase their work and network with global leaders, including seaweed processors, nutraceutical companies, entrepreneurs & startups, industry stakeholders, scientists, researchers and technology and service providers. The organizers will provide limited number of stalls for exhibitors.

The standard package includes:

- A 3m x 3m exhibition space.
- One counter table, a round table, and two chairs.
- A standard fascia with the exhibitor's company name.
- One power outlet and three spot lights.
- Inclusion in the symposium's official program and digital media outputs.

For further details on stall pricing, booking procedures, and other terms and conditions, please visit the official symposium website.

S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026

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BUSINESS MEET & BRANDING OPPORTUNITIES

S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026 will host an exclusive Business Meet and a Roundtable Discussion for seaweed business partners, startups, and cultivators. This is a unique opportunity to form partnerships and plan the future of the industry. Additionally, organizers provides various Branding Opportunities for partners to increase their visibility and show their commitment to the blue economy. Further details, including the venue and date/time, will be updated soon on the official symposium website.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

- **Plenary Lectures** by global leaders in algal research and marine policy
- **Mini Symposia** on specific application areas like biotechnology, blue carbon, and industrial processing
- **Interaction** with seaweed farmers
- **Hands-on Workshops** on cultivation, genomics, value addition, and restoration
- **Roundtables** involving policymakers, entrepreneurs, and researchers
- **Exhibition Pavilion** showcasing industry, start-ups, and student innovations
- **Business Meet & Branding opportunities,** for national and international firms
- **Release of a Vision Document:** "India's Seaweed Roadmap 2030"

S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026 is envisioned as a landmark initiative that will bring transformative change in the way India views, values, and utilizes seaweeds. By bridging science, society, and sustainability, the symposium will catalyze efforts to build a seaweed sector that is not just productive but also planet-positive and people-centric. Hosting the International Seaweed Symposium in India presents an unprecedented opportunity to position the nation, and specifically Kerala, at the forefront of the global seaweed revolution. By fostering a collaborative environment, particularly through active engagement with other research organizations, we can unlock the immense potential of India's abundant seaweed resources, bolster government initiatives, enhance the awareness and availability of functional food products, and contribute significantly to sustainable economic growth and environmental stewardship. The strong academic foundation and research contributions of institutions such as KUFOS further solidify India's capability to host such a prestigious international event. We eagerly anticipate the positive impact this Symposium will have on advancing the 'Blue Economy' and creating a more sustainable future.

We look forward to your valuable partnership in making S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026 a milestone event for India's blue economy and sustainable future.

S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026

ABOUT KOCHI

Nestled on the southwestern coast of India, Kochi (also known as Cochin) is a vibrant city that serves as a perfect blend of rich history, cultural diversity, and modern dynamism. Often referred to as the "Queen of the Arabian Sea," Kochi has been a major port and trading hub for centuries, attracting merchants from around the globe.

This coastal jewel is located in the state of Kerala, a tropical paradise known as "God's Own Country." Kerala, located at the southern tip of India, is celebrated for its lush landscapes, serene backwaters, and a unique cultural heritage. The state's captivating beauty and tranquil environment provide an ideal setting for intellectual exchange and relaxation. Within this breathtaking Indian state, Kochi's legacy of global exchange is particularly visible.

Explore Fort Kochi, where cantilevered Chinese fishing nets stand against the backdrop of colonial-era buildings, and wander through Jew Town, a testament to its multicultural past. Beyond the historical charm, Kochi offers picturesque backwaters, serene beaches, and a thriving contemporary arts scene.

With its harmonious mix of tradition and progress, Kochi, and the captivating state of Kerala, provide an inspiring and unforgettable backdrop for our international symposium. We invite you to experience the region's unique tapestry of culture, cuisine, and captivating sights, ensuring a memorable visit beyond the symposium halls.

S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026
CORE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

PATRONS

Shri. George Kurian
Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Minority Affairs, Govt. of India

Shri. Saji Cherian
Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Culture and Youth Affairs, Govt. of Kerala

CHAIRMAN

Prof. (Dr.) A.Biju Kumar
Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS)

VICE CHAIRS

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General Secretary, Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA)

Prof. (Dr.) K. Padma Kumar
President, Seaweed Research and Utilization Association (SRUA)

Shri. C. Chandramouli
Founder Chairman, Forum of Traditional Fisherman Associations (FOTA)

CONVENER

Prof. (Dr.) K. Dinesh
Registrar, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS)

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Head, Department of Fish Processing Technology, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS)

S.E.A.W.E.E.D.S. 2026

For More Details Contact:

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Organizing Secretary

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