

### Kollam Tomorrow

A cloudy sky and breeze from west-southwest direction will prevail. A spell of moderate rain and thunder shower possible. High 28 °C low 23 °C. RH max 97%.

© Copyright Skywet Company 2010. All rights reserved.

SKYWET

# REGION

## Workshop calls for change in Inland Fisheries Bill

Staff Reporter

**ALAPPUZHA:** A consultative workshop held to discuss the Kerala Inland Fisheries Bill, tabled on the Assembly and presently left for the consideration of a subject committee, has opined that though the bill as a whole was a welcome move, there were a lot of amendments and revisions that should be made to it.

Organised by the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), the workshop had prominent speakers, including Madhusoodana Kurup, Director, Department of Industrial Fish and Fisheries

(CUSAT); K.G. Padmakumar, Director, Regional Agriculture Research Station, Kumarakom; Sanjeev Ghosh, former Additional Director of Fisheries; and Benno Pereira, head, Department of Aquaculture, St. Albert's College, Ernakulam; Dr. Jayachandran, Fisheries College, Panangad; and Fr. Thomas Peelianickal of the Kuttanad Vikasana Samithi.

The discussions, moderated by ATREE scientist Priyadarsanan Dharma Rajan, included debates on the potential of the bill. The speakers expressed concern that the bill, in its present form, had left out several crucial

points, essential for the protection of the inland fisheries sector. Fishermen and their communities were "completely left out" of the bill, leading to severe criticism from most of the speakers.

Though the bill centred around inland fishing, there was no mention on the steps that were to be taken to protect inland fish resources. Concrete definitions of inland water bodies and databases had to be included. There was no mention of the steps to control pollution, building bunds or regulate tourism, particularly when the bill would have an impact on water bodies.