

ABSTRACT

Shrimp industry is a new and rapidly developing industry in Sri Lanka, which earns high profits and brings in much needed valuable foreign exchange to the country, in addition to generation of employment. Prawn farming is distributed on the inter-tidal and supra-tidal areas around Chilaw lagoon, Dutch canal, Mundal lagoon, and the Puttlam lagoon. Intensive farming is rapidly developing in North Western Province (NWP) of Sri Lanka.

In-plant training covered areas such as the hatchery, farm and processing plant. Hatchery, where expensive high tech facilities are utilized to produce large quantities of quality seed stock in a controlled environment. Larvae are fed on algae which are produced in the hatchery and an *Artemia* supplied from outside.

Once the post larvae are introduced to the grow out pond, special attention should be given in respect of feeding, aeration, water quality and health of the shrimps. They are harvested on reaching marketable sizes.

Harvested shrimps are taken to the processing plant in chilled condition. Here the shrimps are processed according to the requirements of the overseas buyers. Processing consumes much labour and produces value added products, such as head on, headless and peeled and de-veined (raw, block frozen and individual quick frozen). Strict quality control measures are adopted right through the process of production.

Diseases are an impediment to the development of the prawn industry and therefore disease management should be given high priority. Identification of the deadly viral disease like the 'white spot' is very essential to the breeders and farmers, as the viral infection results in 100% mortality rate within a short time. The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) is the latest technology for determination of DNA profile of a living organism, which can be used to detect the viral infection in shrimp especially the 'white spot' disease (WSSV).