

SHRIMP AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE OF SRI LANKA; USE OF BETTER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP'S) FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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Development of BMP's are identified as a key step towards producing better quality shrimps in socially acceptable, environmentally sound and economically viable manner. The BMP's are specific to particular farming zone and for their farming system. The present study was conducted in the Batticaloa District to find out present adoption level of BMP's and to suggest future interventions with respect to BMP's. In 2013, around 290 acres of land has been utilized for shrimp farming and 245.7 mt of shrimps have been harvested up to date. During the last five years shrimp farming area has expanded thrice and respective shrimp production has increased by more than 11 folds. In addition, recently developed zonal plan has identified potential areas for shrimp farming development and shrimp hatchery establishment for future expansion. The farm performance indicators are in acceptable levels and there is no record of major disease out-breaks in the Batticaloa District up to date. In the present study three different categories of BMP's were identified based on the farmers adoption level; highly adopted BMP's, moderately adopted BMP's and poorly adopted BMP's. It was revealed that BMP's related to pond preparation, seed selection and stocking, feed management, water quality monitoring, aeration and record keeping are adopted by more than 50% of the farmers and fall in the categories of highly and moderately adopted BMP's. BMP's related to bio-security and disease prevention and effluent treatment are adopted by less than 50% of the farmers and falls into the category of poorly adopted BMP's. It is recommended that, BMP's related to use of sedimentation tanks and reservoir tanks and bio-security interventions should be adopted in majority of the farms to improve the sustainability. There is a need for the improvement in BMP's related to proper pond construction and pond preparation and proper aeration especially in farms located in Karayakanthivu and Vavunathivu subzones. To increase the adoption of BMP's and efficient dissemination of BMP's, interventions like implementing cluster based farming through farmer societies, strengthening of farmer societies, and knowledge transfer mechanism and frequent farm training sessions and demonstrations are suggested.

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