

## **1.0 Abstract**

### **Present Status and Recent trends for Sustainable Shrimp Farm Development in the Eastern Province**

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Shrimp farming is emerging as a main industrial activity in the Eastern Province. During the last few decades shrimp farming industry suffered due to civil unrest and environmental problems. There was no proper management plan for the industry. At present there are 30 shrimp farms and 29 shrimp farmers occupied 273.8 acres of land in Batticaloa district. In year 2011 the annual production was 148.18 Mt of shrimps from 235 acres. A total of 9.68 million PL's were produced in Eastern province in year 2011. In 2011, the average size at harvest was  $30.9 \pm 5.4$ g and the average days of culture were  $118.3 \pm 20.6$ .

Our study revealed that there were several poor management practices that contribute towards health and environmental problems. Lack of proper bio security interventions, poor pond construction and lack of proper infrastructure facility are the main weaknesses identified. There was no major disease out breaks in Batticaloa district, but environmental and nutritional stress related health problems were recorded in rare occasions. Lack of financial resources and inadequacies in knowledge transfer are the main problems identified for not implementing Good Management Practices.

In recent, the zonal plan was devised for the sustainable development of the industry, in which 2839 ha of land have been identified for shrimp farming and potential areas for hatchery establishment also identified. But at present less than 5% of the total identified area used for shrimp farming and only one hatchery was established. More emphasis is needed on awareness programs to enhance the knowledge of farmers and policy interventions to regulate the shrimp farming industry for future sustainability.

**Key words:** Shrimp farming, Good Management Practices, Bio security, Environmental problems, Sustainable shrimp farming