

# Constraints to the development of shrimp farming industry in Sri Lanka - A decade's experience

R.P. Samarasinghe

*Andriesz Mariculture Limited, Bangadeniya*

Commercial shrimp farming in Sri Lanka commenced in 1980's and to date, approximately 2000 ha of coastal land in the North Western Province have been converted to shrimp farms. The number of shrimp hatcheries (in operation and under construction) has increased to 47 by the end of 1995, from only five hatcheries in 1986. For the first time, a major set back in the industry was reported in 1989 due to disease outbreaks. However, the industry is still expanding with several problems.

Disease outbreaks, environmental disasters, insufficient expertise and experiences, shortcomings of the research and development programmes, social problems and weaknesses in the policy planning and implementation are the major constraints. These factors are discussed in this paper; with some suggestions to overcome them.