

Lessons from some Asian countries for the
sustainability of shrimp farming industry in Sri
Lanka

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Thailand, Indonesia, India, Vietnam, China, bangladesh, Philippines and Taiwan are the major shrimp producing countries in Asia. The global farm-raised shrimp production was recorded as 2,200 MT in 1981 and it has increased upto 756,000 MT in 1994. Taiwan was leading in shrimp culture industry in 1987 (by producing approximately 100,000 MT), but it was collapsed drastically in 1988 (down to 30,000 MT) and it was only 20,000 MT in 1994. In the same way, China's shrimp farming industry collapsed in 1990 after the recorded maximum of 200,000 MT in 1988, and to-date, its total farm raised shrimp production is limited to approximately 35,000 MT. Similar production collapses have been experienced in several other countries and these indicate the unstable nature of the shrimp farming industry in any of the country. The disease outbreaks, environmental hazards, climatic and geographical problems and technological problems are the major reasons for these disasters. The nature and possible methods strategies to overcome certain problems appearing in Sri Lanka are discussed in this paper, based on the experience and improvements introduced by other countries.