

## Abstract

The milkfish, *Chanos chanos*, is an important food fish in Asia. Milk fish has been cultured for 700 years more than in Indonesia and has shown a steady increase in milk fish production, reflecting greater availability of suitable resources and government intervention.

In brackish water areas of Sri Lanka, many non utilizing abundant shrimp ponds are available. Therefore it is needed to pay attention about other alternative cultivating species that can grow in abundant shrimp ponds. The milk fish is one of the fish species that can grow in this area successfully. On the other hand, in recent years requests have been received from many countries for milk fish as tuna bait.

But Still Sri Lanka is still at initial stage in the case of production of milk fish. There fore it is very important to get new knowledge for developing milk fish industry in Sri Lanka. Obtaining knowledge about, hatchery management of milk fish (Brood stock, egg handling, larval rearing, plankton culture) and pond culture was the main objective of this training. Ultimately, culturing of milk fish will be contributed to Gross National Production and increase the foreign earnings.

The hormone treatment will be needed to get eggs from milk fish in Sri Lanka. In here hormonal treatment used for not spawned milk fish brood stocks can be used to induce breeding. In this method both pellets containing LHRH-a and 17  $\alpha$  methyl testosterone hormone with dose 200  $\mu$ g can be used for whole batch.

Milk fish is a strong fish when comparing other species in the case of disease occurrence. Rearing of milkfish larvae is not so difficult when comparing shrimp. But there should be enough facilities for producing natural feeds such as *Nanochloropsis* and rotifer. It is needed a good attention for brood stock management of milkfish.

Further attention and experiments will be needed to develop separate feed for brood stock and grow out ponds using locally available ingredients.

If we can able to supply fry requirement continually by using this technique, farmers will be able to culture milk fish with higher survival rate.