

Towards Sustainable Shrimp Culture in Thailand and the Region

**Proceedings of a workshop held at Hat Yai, Songkhla, Thailand,
28 October–1 November 1996**

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAHRI	Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute (Thailand)
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
ASS	acid sulfate soils
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Philippines)
DOF	Department of Fisheries
EU	European Union
FCR	feed conversion ratio
GIS	geographical information system
IHHNV	infectious hypodermal and hepatopoietic necrosis virus
MBV	<i>Penaeus monodon</i> -type baculovirus
NACA	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
ODA	Overseas Development Administration (UK)
OIE	Office International des Epizooties
PASS	potential acid sulfate soils
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Philippines)
SEMBV	systemic ectodermal and mesodermal baculovirus
UPV	University of the Philippines in the Visayas
WSBV	white spot baculovirus
WTO	World Trade Organization
YHV	yellow head virus

Glossary

Amphur	The word for district in Thailand.
Baht	The baht is the Thai unit of currency. There are around 35 baht to the Australian dollar (as of May 1998).
Changwat	The word for province in Thailand.
District	Each province in Thailand is subdivided into districts. The number of districts in each province varies. Also called <i>amphoe</i> .
Province	Thailand is divided into 71 provinces. Also called <i>changwat</i> .
Rai	The rai is a measure of a unit of land in Thailand. One rai = 1,600 m ² . There are 6.25 rai per hectare.
Shrimp	In Australia and some other countries, marine and brackish-water species of shrimp are usually referred to as prawns.

Preface

Toward the end of 1996, Thailand—the world's leading producer of farmed shrimp—and other countries in Asia began to feel the strain from a combination of major problems. The rapid expansion in productivity in Thailand that had occurred in the previous decade had reached a plateau and eventually declined. Outbreaks of new shrimp viral diseases were threatening the viability of farms in many parts of Thailand and elsewhere in Asia. Also, there was growing regional and international awareness about the need for more sustainable shrimp aquaculture practices, and concern about possible trade implications arising from the pressures and activities of international environmental organisations.

In light of such issues and their chronic impacts, it was timely that a workshop was held in Hat Yai, Thailand in October 1996, as part of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) project 'Key Researchable Issues in Sustainable Coastal Shrimp Aquaculture in Thailand' (project number FIS/1993/843). Further details of the project are given in a complementary report (Smith, P. ed. 1999. Coastal shrimp aquaculture in Thailand: key issues for research. ACIAR Technical Report No. 49). The workshop brought together representatives from a broad cross-section of the shrimp farming industry in Thailand as well as participants from 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. These participants, with their experience and expertise, now had a forum in which to focus their attention on issues relevant to the sustainability of coastal shrimp aquaculture in Thailand and the region.

The theme of the workshop was set by the address by Dr Plodprasop Suraswadi, Thailand's Director-General of the Department of Fisheries (DOF); he said the priority for research was to provide scientific guidelines for responsible management and sustainable development of the industry. Hassanai Kongkeo, the Coordinator of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), supported this objective and stressed the importance of strengthening research links and collaboration within the region. Barney Smith, Manager of the Fisheries Research Program in ACIAR, acknowledged the complexity of the problems confronting the shrimp farming industry and encouraged the workshop to develop multi-disciplinary research responses that provide outcomes at the farm level.

The subsequent workshop deliberations covered a range of relevant topics. The principles of concern for sustainable development provided a framework for discussions; that is, development should be judged on the following criteria: maintenance of ecological systems; improvement in the social and economic wellbeing of people; and provision for both inter-generational and intra-generational equity. Those principles require consideration of the environment, use of the most appropriate technologies and understanding of socioeconomics, culture and politics. In the workshop that followed, the participants delivered concise and incisive papers, identifying: key issues for

research relating to technical areas (production) and non-technical areas (society, environment, finance and trade); areas of research that are currently being undertaken in Thailand and the region; gaps in ongoing research and cost–benefits for research; constraints and possible solutions for implementing research; areas for regional collaborative research; and priorities for future research.

On behalf of the workshop participants and the research team, the editor gratefully acknowledges the valuable contributions to the planning and organisation of the workshop of numerous individuals and organisations, in Thailand, Australia and other countries, and the encouragement and financial support of ACIAR. The effectiveness of the workshop is due to the energy and enthusiasm of team members from NACA, DOF and Kasetsart University. As a result of the efforts of the participants, these Proceedings provide a contemporary insight into the key issues that are to be addressed by Thailand and the region as the shrimp farming industry moves towards sustainability.

Paul T. Smith
Project Leader
University of Western Sydney Macarthur

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