

TRAINING COURSE ON MANGROVE-FRIENDLY SHRIMP AQUACULTURE

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Site of Activity: SEAFDEC/AQD: Tigbauan Main Station and Dumangas Brackishwater Station, Iloilo, Philippines

RATIONALE

The culture of shrimps is a worldwide multi-dollar industry that experienced a phenomenal growth in the early eighties. Thereafter, growth was modest due to the advent of diseases and the rise of environment advocacy. One problem that persistently plagues the industry is the perception that shrimp culture prospered at the expense of mangrove systems.

The need to address this problem led SEAFDEC/AQD to embark on a research program aimed at reconciling shrimp culture and mangroves issues. The Government of Japan gave importance to this program through its generous financial support. As a result, a mangrove-friendly shrimp grow-out technology was developed. Field-testing of this technology in several sites in the Philippines has proven that shrimp culture and mangroves can actually co-exist. Field-testing in the other SEAFDEC Member Countries is also ongoing.

Based on the technology thus developed, AQD designed a training course on mangrove-friendly shrimp culture, to help disseminate the technology to the SEAFDEC Member Countries.

OBJECTIVES

The goal of the training course is to provide participants with a basic understanding of the mangrove ecosystem and technical knowledge and skills on shrimp culture so that they can grow shrimp in a sustainable and mangrove-friendly manner.

Specifically, at the end of the training course, the participants must be able to:

1. Explain the basic concepts of the mangrove ecosystem;
2. Explain the interrelationships between mangroves and shrimp culture;
3. Apply sustainable culture methods and management techniques; and
4. Prepare a feasibility study of a mangrove-friendly shrimp aquaculture project.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY (INCLUDE SUB-ACTIVITIES)

1. Recruitment of Participants

Participants, nominated by Member Countries, receive fellowships from the Japanese Trust Fund. The participants in the three sessions represented Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Singapore sent one participant in the first session of the training program.

2. Course Design and Implementation

- a. The *three-week* training course is delivered through: lecturers (25%), practical activities (50%), and field trips and other curricular activities (25%) including the preparation and presentation of a feasibility study.
- b. *Main lecturers* (90%) come from AQD. However, since the Thai experience on the course became an important element in the course, some industry experts from Thailand are invited to provide a balanced treatment to the course.

- c. **Practical sessions** are conducted at AQD’s Dumangas Brackishwater Station (DBS) in Iloilo, Philippines.



The participants in the 2002 session (above)



Trainees during practical sessions at AQD’s Dumangas Brackishwater Station

- a. **Field trips** are usually made to:
- (i) Bugtong Bato, Ibajay Aklan – visit the mangrove-friendly aquaculture collaborative project between the local government of Ibajay and SEAFDEC/ AQD
 - (ii) Bacolod City, Negros Occidental – visit the Negros Prawn Producers Marketing Cooperative, and shrimp farms at FYD Sta. Clara and Cadiz City
 - (iii) The first session participants had the opportunity to visit the Project’s activities in Thailand
- b. **Handouts** for lectures and practical sessions are provided to participants before the start of sessions.
- c. A **group dynamics** session serves as the course icebreaker to encourage team effort, foster camaraderie, and cultivate an effective interpersonal communication among participants.
- d. The participants are required to prepare two **grouped feasibility reports** for presentation as a culminating activity in a plenary session with the course resource persons.
- e. A participant’s **achievement** in the course is computed from the following indicators:
- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Practical Performance | 30% |
| Project Feasibility Study Report | 50% |
| Feasibility Study Presentation | <u>20%</u> |
| | 100% |

A minimum achievement of 70% would entitle a participant to a certificate of training, while a certificate of attendance will be given for a lesser performance.

3. **Course Assessment** – At the end of the course, participants are asked to submit their own evaluation of the course.