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SHRIMP FARMING SMALLHOLDERS IN SARAWAK: PROSPECT OF MARINE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S ADOPTED SHRIMP FARMERS

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CHAPTER 1

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ABSTRACT

This project paper attempts to study the prospect of Marine Fisheries Department's adopted shrimp farmers.

The shrimp aquaculture industry is a relatively new industry in Sarawak with most shrimp farmers are relatively new in their various involvement. The objectives of this study is therefore to find out whether the adopted shrimp farmers would be successful in their undertakings considering the various problems which they would encounter, such as operational technical problems and possibly high operating cost, low price etc.

Shrimp farming is also facing the possible outbreak of disease that could have affected the farm as it is dealing with living organism. It was noted from the study that most farmers have adhered to the guidelines provided under the Code of Practices in Aquaculture with regard to stocking density rate, feeding management water management etc.

The findings of the study also show that most adopted farmers used personal savings and credit fecilities from suppliers as an intial capital and very few has obtained loans from financial institutions. 80 % of the farmers had no experience in shrimp farming when they first started. However most farmers had attended aquaculture farming courses organized by the government agencies.

The work force in the shrimp farming were mostly family members and most farmers did not employed skilled and experienced workers to work in their shrimp farms..

A major portion of the annual expenditure for the shrimp farming was spent on purchasing feeds which were mostly imported from foreign countries like Thailand, Taiwan etc.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

Aquaculture is seen as an important fishery development activity in Sarawak that could have significant economic impact both on a commercial scale and on a small scale community base level. The state has over 216,594 ha of land suitable for aquaculture development. These resources when fully developed can enable aquaculture to play a major role in the state economy. The official available data presently seemed to indicate that only 1.099.4 ha are being utilized for shrimp ponds culture. On the national level brackish water aquaculture is targeted to produce 390,500 metric ion s valued at RM3,275 million under NAP3 by 2010. Aquaculture was also identified as having potential and investment opportunities in Malaysian Fisheries Sector.

Under the National Agriculture Policy, The Seventh Malaysian Plan (1995 – 2000) and the Eight Malaysian Plan (2000 – 2005) aquaculture subsector was given priority plan area for development. Aquaculture industry had been identified as one of the main fisheries subsector to be concentrated and targeted on to increase the national fish production. It is having high potential if it is developed efficiently and sustainably. However the development of brackish water aquaculture, especially, in Sarawak is still considered quite new and nevertheless is having high potential as one of the main contributor to the fish production of the nation.

In the light of this scenerio, the government viz, the Marine Fisheries Department Sarawak in particular and the other relevant government agencies in the state in