

# THE SHRIMP FARMING IN VIETNAM: CURRENT SITUATION, ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC-SOCIAL IMPACTS AND THE DEMAND ON SUSTAINABLE SHRIMP AQUACULTURE

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## **Abstract**

The development of shrimp aquaculture in Vietnam has been impressive during the last decade. In 2004, about 560,000 ha were used for shrimp farming that brought about 290,000 tones with more than 1 billion USD export turn over. It is clear that shrimp production has been taking a key role to the Vietnamese economy. Depending on natural ecological and socio-economic conditions of each province, different shrimp farming systems have developed. In general, three popular shrimp farming systems have been developed such as improved extensive, semi-intensive, and intensive.

- *Improved extensive systems* consist of *Integrated mangrove-shrimp farming* and *Rotation rice-shrimp farming* can be observed in every coastal provinces of the Mekong Delta.
- *Semi-intensive systems and Intensive systems* exists in coastal provinces, in which *Sandy land shrimp farming* is specific in Central provinces.

The development of shrimp aquaculture in Vietnam has been transforming from extensive towards more intensified farms as the governmental orientation. According to Vietnam Ministry of Fisheries, shrimp farming systems in Vietnam in 2003 comprised of 3% semi-intensive and intensive, 22% improved extensive and 75% extensive culture. In parallel with the shrimp aquaculture development, severe adverse environmental, economic and social impacts have been reported recently in Vietnam.

Can shrimp aquaculture in Vietnam be developed in a sustainable way? The article presents the current situation as well as the adverse environmental, economic and social impacts of shrimp aquaculture in Vietnam to figure out the demand on sustainable shrimp farming to meet the Millennium Development Goal on Sustainable Development in Vietnam. Three success patterns representing for sustainable shrimp farming are also introduced in the article.