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L. vannamei trials in Indonesia improve productivity

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Work conducted at Charoen Pokphand Bahari farm in South Sumatra



Several *L. vannamei* trials have been conducted in ponds at the Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia farm in Lampung.

The Pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) is the most popular farmed shrimp species in the Western Hemisphere. It is now also commercially cultured in several countries in Asia, although only China appears to be producing significant quantities.

Culture of the species began recently in Thailand using specific pathogen-free (SPF) postlarvae (PL). *L. vannamei* were introduced in Indonesia in 2000 and initially cultured in East Java. SPF PL are currently used by several farms in Indonesia.

Status in Indonesia

Ten or so *L. vannamei* hatcheries in Situbondo and Banyuwangi, East Java, can produce approximately 150 million PL per cycle. These PL are used by local farmers or sent to farms in Lampung, South Sumatra; Balikpapan and Tarakan, Kalimantan; and Ujungpandang, Sulawesi.

Successful pond grow-out has produced yields of 7 to 10 metric tons (MT) per hectare, with animals reaching 15 grams in 90 days. Survival rates of 75 to 90 percent and 1.1 to 1.4:1 feed conversion ratios have been reported. Indonesia could produce 5,000 MT of cultured *L. vannamei* in 2002, and possibly reach 20,000 MT in 2003.

Viral disease

East Java may have had some viral problems recently. Eighty percent of the farms in Situbondo and Probolinggo experienced major losses in ponds stocked in July 2002. The gross signs observed in affected shrimp included white spots on carapaces and reddish-colored bodies – later confirmed as White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) by the Brackishwater Aquaculture Development Center laboratory in Jepara.

WSSV could have been transmitted from the broodstock or affected weaker, less-resistant shrimp during pond culture. However, samples tested were negative for Taura Syndrome Virus. At farms that were not as affected, shrimp growth – animals required 100 to 105 days to reach 15 grams.

Most of these affected farms were stocked with PL produced from pond-reared broodstock that could not have been SPF. Most of these broodstock were suspected positive for Infectious Hypodermal and Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV).

Integrated operation provides SPF PL

The Charoen Pokphand Bahari (CPB) shrimp project on the northern coast of South Sumatra, Indonesia is well integrated, with a hatchery, feed mill, power plant and processing and cold storage facilities. The CPB hatchery in Lampung has been producing about 100 million PL per month from SPF *L. vannamei* broodstock imported from Hawaii, USA. The SPF PL are utilized at the C.P. Bahari farm and also distributed to farms in other areas of Indonesia.

The farm is operated under the so-called “plasma” profit-sharing system, where each credited family operates an intensive 0.5-ha pond with management assistance from Charoen Pokphand Bahari. In this team approach, the credited farmer is the plasma and CPB, the nucleus, supplies PL, feed and electricity, and buys back the shrimp produced by the farmers.

The farm has over 3,100 family ponds and 300 company ponds. Technical support is provided by CPB's central laboratory and research facilities at the farm site. Currently, the black tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) is the main species produced, but commercial production of *L. vannamei* began in

mid-2002 at the farm.

L. vannamei trials

Locally available *L. vannamei* PL from East Java were used for initial trials in mid-2001. In subsequent trials, CPB PL from SPF broodstock were stocked. The PL₁₀ (about 8.0 mm long) postlarvae were evaluated for developmental stage and size, presence of *Vibrio* spp., necrosis and gill development, and subjected to a stress test.

Biosecurity

As a biosecurity measure, ponds were fenced with plastic barriers to keep potential pathogen carriers like crabs out. Twined nylon lines with attached plastic strips were also placed over the ponds at every 2 meters to discourage flying birds from entering the pond area. Intake pipes were fitted with filter net bags to prevent the entry of water-borne pathogen carriers. Existing carriers were eradicated in reservoirs and production ponds before stocking.

Culture system and management

An open-flow system was used with treated water from reservoirs pumped into the main supply canal. From there, the water was distributed to production ponds. During culture operations, concentrated waste was discharged or siphoned into a wastewater canal.

The farm had three types of production ponds: HDPE-lined, partially lined, and with earthen bottoms. Modules included common quarantine and treatment reservoirs that supplied a set of production ponds. A module consisted of 40-60 ponds with four or five reservoirs with an area equivalent to 20 percent of the production ponds. Aeration of 10 horsepower per pond included eight paddlewheels placed to create currents to move organic waste and sludge toward the center drains of the ponds. Water exchange was minimal initially, but progressively increased to 10 percent daily as needed. Bottom siphoning was done twice every week or as required.

The modules were initially designed to function as recirculation systems with a clean water canal from the production ponds leading back to the reservoirs. After eradication of carriers at reservoirs and production ponds, the water was fertilized with urea and triple super phosphate to promote primary productivity. Products routinely used during pond preparation and operation included liming compounds and two probiotics.

Trial results

Temperature, salinity, pH and other pond water quality parameters were within acceptable ranges during the trials. The results summarized in Table 1 show progressive improvements in productivity from 3,634 to 10,094 kg shrimp per hectare. Survival and feed conversion also improved significantly.

Taw, L. vannamei performance in production trials, Table 1

	Trial 1 Nov. '01- March '02	Trial 2 Dec. '01- May '02	Trial 3 Feb. '02- July '02	Trial 4 March '02- Aug '02
Number of ponds	10	10	11	14
PL source	East Java	CPB	CPB	CPB

Pond type	Earthen	Earthen	HDPE/Earthen	HDPE
Stocking density (animals/m ²)	69	82	71	62
Culture period (days)	128	117	126	114
Survival rate (%)	29.5	74.1	92.1	93.3
Average weight (g)	15.10	13.15	15.23	17.66
Feed-conversion ratio	2.43	1.65	1.36	1.31
Average daily gain (g)	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.16
Productivity (kg/ha)	3,634	7,946	9,933	10,094
Productivity (kg/hp)	182	397	497	475

Table 1. *L. vannamei* performance in production trials at Charoen Pokphand Bahari research ponds (average values).

Deformities

The high incidence (up to 46.5 percent) of deformities including deformed rostra, wrinkled antennal flagella, and cuticular roughness observed in harvested samples during the first trial was probably caused by stocking IHHNV-infected PL from East Java. This also probably contributed to the low productivity and high FCR for this trial. In subsequent trials with SPF PL, no deformities were observed.

Stocking density study

A four-month study on feed consumption and growth at stocking densities of 55 and 75 PL per square meter was also carried out. As expected, the higher density resulted in higher production and smaller shrimp sizes (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1: Daily feed and growth of *L. vannamei* during trials at two stocking densities.

The test system using HDPE-lined ponds averaged 475 kg shrimp per horsepower of paddlewheel aeration, and a maximum of 580 kilograms per horsepower was achieved. For comparison, McIntosh (2000) reported pond yields greater than 13,500 kilograms per hectare (550 kg shrimp per horsepower of paddlewheel aeration) at Belize Aquaculture Ltd. in Belize using zero water-exchange systems.

Protein requirements

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Harvested *L. vannamei* are placed in ice slurry prior to transportation to the processing plant.

examination of protein content in feed used two shrimp diets produced at the C.P. Bahari feed mill: 38 to 40 percent protein feed normally used for *P. monodon* grow-out and a 30 to 32 percent protein aquafeed specially formulated for *L. vannamei*. The results (Table 2) confirmed that somewhat lower protein levels in feed had no effect on *L. vannamei* production performance. Production and efficiency were similar with both feeds, but production costs using lower-protein feeds are lower.

Taw, Results of feeding trials in ponds with *L. vannamei*, Table 2

Parameter	Feed: 38-40% Protein	Feed: 30-32% Protein
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Number of ponds	3	3
Area (m ²)	1,740	1,740
Pond type	HDPE	HDPE
Stocking density (animals/mm ²)	60	60
Initial average body weight (g) of nursery PL	0.14	0.14
Starting date	April 25, 2002	April 25, 2002
Harvest date	August 6-15, 2002	August 6-16, 2002
Days of culture	108	107
Final body weight (g)	16	17
Feed-conversion ratio	1.3	1.3
Survival rate (%)	94	99
Average daily gain (g)	0.15	0.15
Productivity (kg/ha)	9,323	9,945
Productivity/power input (kg/hp)	424	431

Table 2. Results of feeding trials in ponds with *L. vannamei* using two types of aquafeed (average values).

Performance comparison: *L. vannamei*, *P. monodon*

In Indonesia, the culture of *P. monodon* is well established and the culture of *L. vannamei* is still very recent. However, information in Table 3, which shows the comparative performance of the two species, indicates that culture of *L. vannamei* is technically feasible and can be implemented in ponds originally built for *P. monodon*.

Taw, Performance comparison of *L. vannamei* and *P. monodon*, Table 3

Parameter	<i>L. vannamei</i> Trial March '02-Aug. '02	<i>P. monodon</i> March '02-July '02
Number of ponds	14	10
PL source	CPB	CPB
Pond type	HDPE	HDPE
Stocking density (animals/m ²)	62	37
Days of culture	114	120
Survival rate (%)	93.3	48.1
Weight (g) at harvest	17.66	23.29

Feed-conversion ratio	1.31	1.98
Average daily gain (g/day)	0.16	0.19
Productivity (kg/ha)	10,094	4,184
Productivity (kg/hp)	475	209

Table 3. Performance comparison of *L. vannamei* and *P. monodon* in Indonesia (average values).

Note: Cited references are available from the first author.

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