

# Principles to Practice

Two in-country projects, in India and Vietnam, have provided good examples of translating the international principles into specific better management practices (BMPs) adapted to local farming conditions and ensuring their implementation by relevant stakeholders. They give evidence of the advantages of small farmers being organized (as aquaclubs, associations or societies), sharing resources, helping each other and adopting BMPs. The results range from improved yields, less impact on the environment, wholesome products, and better relations among players in the market chain. In short, the implementation of the BMPs has provided benefits to the farmers, environment and society.

## India

As a part of the technical collaboration between MPEDA, NACA, ICAR and ACIAR on shrimp disease control in India, village demonstration programs are being conducted from 2002 onwards. These programs involved organizing small-scale farmers into self-help groups known as “Aquaclubs” for adoption of “Better Management Practices”.

Participation of primary producers in BMP implementation in 2005:

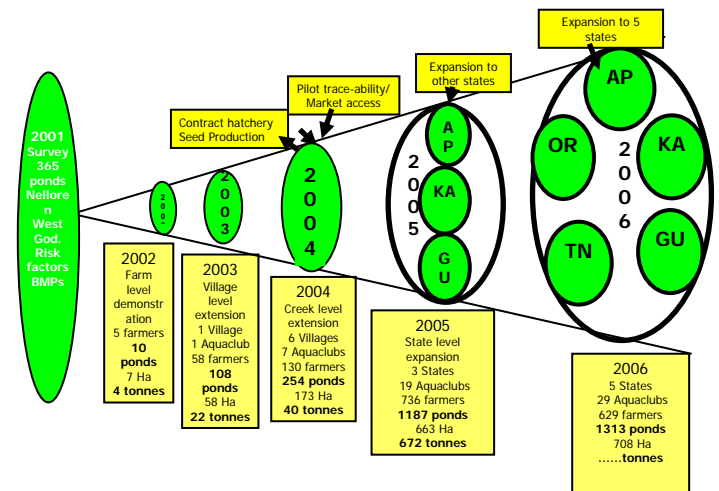
- 15 aquaclubs in Andhra Pradesh
- 2 aquaclubs in Gujarat and
- 2 aquaclubs in Karnataka.

In Andhra Pradesh, 635 farmers (930 ponds) produced 482 tons of BMP shrimp from 15 aquaclubs. Compared to surrounding non-demonstration ponds, the crop highlights included:

- Increase in production by two-fold
- 34% increase in size of shrimp
- 15% increase in crop duration
- 68% improvement in survival
- 65% reduction in disease prevalence

Economic analysis clearly demonstrate that farmers adopting BMPs have higher profitability, lower cost of production and are able to produce quality and traceable shrimp without using any banned chemicals.

The progress in 2006 is encouraging and as of 31<sup>st</sup> July over 500 tons of BMP shrimp have been harvested from project aquaclubs.



## Vietnam

The government of Vietnam recognized the need to promote a more sustainable development of the sector and initiated several activities. In addition to supporting the development of the International Principles for Responsible Shrimp Farming, projects were initiated to translate the principles into practices, which targeted better production and product quality and environmental and socio-economic sustainability.

Under the NACA/SUMA/MOFI project, support was given to the promotion of responsible shrimp farming at all levels and for all links in the production chain. Simple and practical BMPs were developed for broodstock traders, hatcheries, seed traders and farmers, addressing particularly the needs of less resourced small-scale farmers. Ten sets of extension material were developed and disseminated.



Outcomes of the projects included:

- BMP implementation supported in 6 hatcheries. Result: seed production 1.5 times higher and a price per seed 30-40% higher than non-BMP seed
- BMP implementation supported in seven communities (655 direct beneficiaries)
- Lower (almost half) risk of mortality, higher production (sometimes 4 times higher) and higher probability (sometimes double) of making a profit
- Strengthened the institutions involved with seed health management

Experiences from this project were incorporated into NAFIQAVERD's efforts towards sustainable shrimp farming and are now informing the development of national standards for sustainable shrimp seed production and farming.



The final message from the two projects is the importance of the will of government and the collaboration of various institutions, to translate the Principles to Practice. By coming up with the project ideas and committing resources to their implementation, the governments of India and Vietnam provided opportunities for other local, national, regional and international institutions, organizations and agencies to take part in these projects. In India, MPEDA, ICAR and its relevant institutions particularly CIBA, a national hatchery association, academic institutions like the Mangalore Fisheries College, ACIAR, and FAO all had various roles to play. In Vietnam, national agencies, provincial institutions, and DANIDA provided complementary collaboration, while other agencies such as NORAD, AusAID and Spanish Cooperation continue supporting efforts towards BMP implementation.

