

The contribution of aquaculture to exports is almost totally related to shrimp production. Of the total fish exports (1993) of 0.25 Mt worth 800 M\$ US, almost 50% (400 M\$ US) was realised from cultured shrimp. Government projections for expansion of the shrimp industry as a dollar earner are ambitious, and lately have been qualified by acknowledgement of the need for management, technology, infrastructure and of course, regulations. Insofar as it represents a downstream service market, these projections are tabulated below:

Cultured Shrimp Production				
	1995	1997	2000	2010
Production (000t)	62	78	125	150
Farm area (000 ha)	82	100	125	160
Seed (billions)	8	11	17	24
Hatcheries	115	185	288	400
Broodstock (000)	150	220	346	486

Shrimp production is conducted in a mix of traditional, extensive, and semi-intensive farming, with seed densities increasing in that order. The 1995 tonnage was generated from:

- 50,000 ha - traditional farming
- 30,000 ha - extensive farming
- 2500 ha - semi-intensive farming

The proposed controlled expansion of production is likely to occur in a manner that will see new core semi-intensive farms with several low cost, relatively low-tech, satellite extensive farms under their management.

No general appreciation of Indian aquaculture would be complete without reference to the much quoted aquatic capacity of the country to become the 'fish basket' of Asia. The three categories of potential are defined as:

- 8 million ha of coastal sea water in sheltered bays, lagoons, etc, providing a largely untapped scope for finfish, mollusc, and seaweed farms;
- about 1 million ha of brackish water in coastal marshland. The unregulated exploitation of this category for shrimp farming has created significant environmental and ecological problems; and,
- 4 million ha of freshwater lakes, ponds

all covering a range of climate from sub-tropical (28° N) to equatorial. The development of even a small percentage of these areas will require heavy investment in infrastructure (roads, electricity) to realise their potential. The 100,000 ha of brackish water zone formed for shrimp is having difficulties and the inland fishery, mainly the major Carps - Catla, Rohu, and Mirgala - is now attracting attention for the development of finfish for export.