

**Recent trends in shrimp farm performance and culture environment with
special reference to shrimp health.**

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Abstract

Shrimp culture industry in Sri Lanka has been affected by many disease problems, infectious and non-infectious, during the past decade. Since the White spot virus was introduced to Sri Lanka in 2006 most of the other symptoms, especially the non infectious symptoms are neglected. Any mortality is considered to be WSSV, while the presence of other symptoms is not even reported. However it was observed that many farms were also affected by disease conditions which were not WSSV . The present study analyses the problems related to disease symptoms or growth during the past 3 years with respect to the culture environmental conditions.

Ten different problems have been observed during random sampling of farms in the North-Western Province. WSSV disease, growth retardation and soft shell have been the major problems recorded. Problems in maintaining algae in ponds also have been reported. The other disease symptoms observed have been Black gills, Fouling, Lesions, Broken appendages, surfacing in the morning lethargic shrimp and mortalities.

Mortalities were related to high ammonia, inability to control pH and high stocking densities. While problems of soft shell, growth retardation and algal problems were related to low alkalinity, use of chlorine and other chemicals in ponds, high salinity or pH fluctuations and low temperature. Many problems were also observed during onset of rains or after a rainy season. Severe drought conditions also contributed to some problems

It was observed that soft shell, growth retardation, WSSV, Shrimp surfacing in the morning, algal problems and mortalities did not respond to probiotic treatments although many farmers tried this as a control method.

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