

# FAO, NACA, UNEP/GPA, WB, and WWF Consortium on Shrimp Farming and the Environment *receives the Green Award for its* International Principles for Responsible Shrimp Farming

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On November 8, 2006, also known as the World Bank's Environment Family Day, the Consortium Program "Shrimp Farming and the Environment" received a World Bank Green Award 2006 for efforts towards responsible shrimp farming and a recent release of "International Principles for Responsible Shrimp Farming".

The Annual "Green Award" was instituted in 2001 by the World Bank's Environment Sector Board to recognize leadership and personal commitment among Country Directors and Task Teams to environmental sustainability and success in assisting World Bank client countries to integrate environment into development programs.

The Shrimp Farming and the Environment consortium was formed in 1999, through a partnership of the World Bank, NACA, FAO, WWF and more recently the UNEP/GPA. The objective of this global program was to identify issues around shrimp farming and broadly advise on better management of the shrimp farming sector. The program has supported a wide range of case studies and stakeholder consultations involving governments, private sector, academia and NGO's totaling over 100 researchers in 20 countries over the past 5 years.

The outcome from the Consortium Program has been incorporated into the 'International Principles', attempting to provide an overarching international framework for improving the sustainability of the shrimp farming industry. The principles were presented during the Third Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Aquaculture in September 2006, in New Delhi, India and welcomed by the delegates of the meeting.

Intensive consensus building, advocacy and partnership building involving public and private partners and NGOs has already helped mainstream the "International Principles" into environmental management initiatives at all levels from local communities through to international level.

Initiatives in India, Viet Nam, Thailand and Indonesia for example are leading to uptake of



better environmental management practices at the grass roots. In India, a partnership formed with local farmers and government agencies has been growing, involving in 2005 over 600 farmers in six coastal States, leading to unprecedented improvements in environmental performance among small-scale shrimp farming communities. Environmental benefits in India from adoption of better management include a reduction in environmental loads of pond effluent and chemicals, reduced disease risks and improve product quality. Based on the successful outcomes in India, the Ministry of Commerce invested in a new National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) with an ambitious five year program to extend better management practices to the 100,000 farmers in coastal India. In Indonesia, the International Principles are being applied by FAO, NACA and other partners to help guide the rehabilitation of shrimp farming in tsunami affected Aceh province. A key outcome from the Consortium program was the finding that better farming practices based on the 'International Principles' lead to more efficient farming, reducing risks and improving profitability; this key finding has greatly facilitated the opportunities for mainstreaming on shrimp farms across Asia, and provide unprecedented opportunity for broad changes across the sector.

Governments in several major Asian shrimp producing countries have mainstreamed the 'International Principles' within national policy and legislation. The governments have collectively adopted the 'International Principles' during the intergovernmental NACA's Governing Council in

2005 involving 17 member governments in Asia. Viet Nam is one example where the 'International Principles' are being used to adapt legislation. In West Africa, a new cooperation with the OECD is helping nations adapt the International Principles into an evolving regional policy discussion for shrimp farming development, allowing lessons to be adopted before development takes place. In Madagascar, the country's shrimp farming association has committed to adopt the 'International Principles' throughout the sector.

The 'International Principles' are thus increasingly being used a guide for environmentally sound and socially acceptable shrimp aquaculture development. As international discussions focus on certification of aquaculture products, it is likely that the 'International Principles', or documents based on these principles, will play a role in setting market driven certification standards. These are the first principles of their kind for an aquaculture sub-sector, based on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and can be used as a model for the development of principles for other forms of aquaculture.

It is hoped that the "Green Award" and the 'International Principles' will pave the way for further cooperation among partners towards the common vision of responsible shrimp farming, and other forms of aquaculture. The consensus building approach of the Consortium was successful in bring together diverse stakeholder opinions and experiences, towards some common understanding of issues and ways forward. As aquaculture continues to expand globally and becomes more diverse and complex, the need to promote cooperation, capture lessons learned, and share learning and experiences will increase as well. Whilst much work remains to be done, the Consortium's partnership approach shows that such cooperation is not only fruitful in the short-term but also provides a platform upon which such cooperation can be further extended



ARUN PADDIYAR, FAO

*Indian shrimp farmer using a feeding tray for monitoring shrimp feed consumption; a simple "better management practice with economic and environmental benefits*



ARUN PADDIYAR, FAO

*Sucessful harvest, India*

in the future to address other major international issues affecting aquaculture development.

*In partnership with FAO and NACA, the other Co-directors of the Consortium were Mr Ron Zweig, World Bank, Mr Jason Clay, WorldWide Fund for Nature and Mr Anjan Datta, GPA/United Nations Environment Program.*

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*Indian farmers removing sludge to prepare pond bottom for a next crop*