



WORLD FISHERIES DAY 2021 AWARDS



Best Marine Fish Farmer – Vijay Kumar Reddy

INTRODUCTION

Shri L. Vijay Kumar Reddy is into shrimp farming for the past decade and more. He hails from Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. By education, he is a Fishery graduate from Nellore and started his career working with C P Aquaculture India Pvt Ltd in 1997 till 2004 and held various positions, Later joined Cargil India Ltd and worked there from 2005 to 2010. His stint of being engaged with fisheries firms helped him to gain adequate experience, exposure, and knowledge in the sector. The confidence he gained resulted in starting his own venture with Vannamei farming in 2011 taking the 10 acres of sprawling land on lease.



ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY & TECHNOLOGY INTERVENTION

He started his journey with his own investment. The entrepreneurial journey and building a successful, thriving business aren't easy. But nothing is impossible – all he needed was just a little determination, research, education, and the desire to succeed. These qualities made him overcome the initial losses and challenges making his journey worth enjoying and fun. He experienced notable risks during his initial days when the 1st crop had very low survival rate i.e., only 60 % survival rate.



TECHNOLOGY INTERVENTION



The challenge of low survival rate led to generate an idea to start a method of acclimatization in 1 ton capacity of round FRP tanks which can increase the survival rate. He adopted the acclimatization method where the PH, temperature can be controlled between hatchery seed and pond water and later released the seed from FRP tank to pond by siphoning method. These methods resulted in maintaining the 95% survival rate on an average for the subsequent crops.



For grow out system he gave the aeration from the beginning of the culture maintaining oxygen at ≥ 4 ppm (parts per million). This helped him maintain the survival rate all through and expanded his business to 30 acres doing Vannamei farming with almost 80% of success rate. He mentioned that *“Success rate mainly depends on the way the farm is managed and maintained.”*

PRODUCTION

He procures 18.90 lakh fingerlings and feed of 66,028 Kg per annum and follows Best Management Practices (BMP). Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) is 1:65. Mr. Vijay has stocked about 11.00 lakhs seed and produced about 9.1 MT/Ha and in total 250 tons of fish in the last 3 years which has earned him a net profit of Rs. 212.00 lakhs. He is providing employment to 14 people.



INFRASTRUCTURE & MARKETING



Aerator of production capacity of 1000 kg/unit, generator (64KV) and pumping motors were installed in all the ponds and regular application of carbon source to stabilize PH variations. He markets 40,429 tons of produce per annum within the state.

PROCUREMENT AND BEST PRACTICES

Mr. Vijay practised good practices which helped him to maintain certain standards and increase the survival rate. He maintains 3 months of gaps between crops, uses probiotics, certified seed, adoption of bio security measures, ideal stocking density was maintained along with reservoir maintenance.

He removes sludge and ploughs the land after every crop and applies burnt lime in the pond bottom prior to pumping of water. He monitors shrimp health through cast and check tray observations, there is zero water exchange. Usage of mineral mixture to avoid moulting problems, usage water & soil and average daily gain per day is 0.21 gms. Other initiatives he took up were centre feeding, regular application of carbon source to stabilise PH variations etc. His future plan is implementation of nursery pond to reduce the number of days of culture period.



KNOWLEDGE GAINING & SHARING

Mr. Vijay shared that the main reason to success in shrimp farming is to implement Best Management Practices (BMP) like good pond preparation, drying, ploughing, and water quality management by using probiotics. It is important to ensure that the farmer must be always in the farm and check the Feed monitoring to avoid pond bottom pollution.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

He was awarded as Best Shrimp Farmer Award in 2011 during Ugadi Puraskaram by CP Feed Company, the world's largest aquafeed manufacturer, and recently with Best Shrimp Farmer Award during World Fisheries Day 2021.


