

## Ensuring Quality and Sustainable Standards in Shrimp Farming

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## DESCRIPTION

Outdoor shrimp aquaculture, also known as shrimp farming, is a rapidly growing sector in the global seafood industry. This practice involves the cultivation of shrimp in outdoor environments such as ponds, tanks, and other water bodies. The demand for shrimp continues to rise due to its popularity as a delicious and versatile seafood product. As a result, shrimp farming has become an essential component of the global aquaculture industry. Shrimp farming has a long history, dating back to ancient times when coastal communities practiced rudimentary forms of aquaculture. However, modern shrimp farming began in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, primarily in Southeast Asia and Latin America. Technological advancements and increasing global demand have driven the industry's growth. Today, shrimp farming is practiced worldwide, with major producers including China, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, and India.

Extensive shrimp farming is the most traditional method, involving the use of large, shallow ponds with minimal human intervention. This system relies on natural tidal flows to exchange water and provide nutrients. Stocking densities are low, and the growth of shrimp depends largely on natural food sources. While extensive farming has lower environmental impacts, it typically results in lower yields and longer production cycles. Semi-intensive shrimp farming strikes a balance between traditional and modern practices. This method involves higher stocking densities than extensive farming and includes supplemental feeding and aeration to enhance shrimp growth. Water quality is managed more actively, and periodic water exchanges are conducted to maintain optimal conditions. Semiintensive farming offers higher yields and better control over production parameters. Intensive shrimp farming is characterized by high stocking densities, advanced feeding regimens, and rigorous water quality management. This system often uses smaller ponds or tanks, with continuous aeration and water exchange to maintain optimal conditions. Intensive farming maximizes production but requires significant investment in infrastructure and management practices.

The potential environmental impacts are higher, necessitating careful monitoring and mitigation measures. Choosing an appropriate site is critical for the success of outdoor shrimp aquaculture. Key considerations include water quality, soil type, proximity to markets, and availability of resources. Ideal sites have access to clean, brackish water with stable salinity levels, and clay or sandy loam soils that can retain water effectively. Additionally, sites should be located away from industrial pollution sources and other activities that could compromise water quality. Pond design and construction play a vital role in shrimp farming. Ponds should be designed to facilitate easy water exchange, minimize erosion, and support efficient feeding and harvesting. Common designs include rectangular or square ponds with sloped sides and central drainage systems. Proper pond lining and embankment construction are essential to prevent seepage and maintain structural integrity. Maintaining optimal water quality is vital for shrimp health and growth. Key parameters to monitor include temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and ammonia levels. Regular water testing and the use of aeration systems help maintain these parameters within the desired range. Additionally, periodic water exchanges and the use of biofilters or probiotics can improve water quality and reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. The success of shrimp farming depends on careful stocking and feeding practices. Stocking densities vary depending on the farming system, with higher densities in intensive systems. Post-Larvae (PL) shrimp, typically 10-15 days old, are stocked in ponds and gradually acclimated to the pond environment. Feeding regimens should be altered to the shrimp's growth stages, with high-quality feeds providing essential nutrients for optimal growth. Automatic feeders and feed trays can help ensure uniform feeding and reduce waste. Disease outbreaks pose a significant risk to shrimp farming, with viral, bacterial, and fungal infections causing substantial losses. Preventative measures include sourcing disease-free seed stock, maintaining optimal water quality, and implementing biosecurity protocols. Regular health monitoring and early detection of disease symptoms are significant for effective management. In the event of an outbreak, prompt treatment with approved medications and targeted water

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treatments can help control the spread. The rapid expansion of shrimp farming has raised concerns about its environmental impact. Unsustainable practices can lead to habitat destruction, water pollution, and the depletion of natural resources. To address these concerns, the industry is increasingly adopting sustainable practices and certifications.