



## **MINUTES OF MEETING INCEPTION WORKSHOP**

Project “Towards Sustainable Mangrove-Shrimp Aquaculture Through Capacity Building and Partnership in the Mekong River Delta”

**Time:** November 25, 2020

**Participants:**

- Representatives of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Tra Vinh province
- Forest Protection Department
- Trà Vinh University
- Representatives of Cuu Long SeaPro Joint Stock Company
- Representatives of farmers' association, shrimp farming households in Duyen Hai district
- Staff of International Collaborating Centre for Aquaculture and Fisheries Sustainability (ICAFIS)
- Staff of Centre for Environment and Community Assets Development (CECAD)

**1. Opening speech and introduction of participants: Ms. Vo Thi Thu (CECAD)**

**2. CECAD and project introduction: Dr. Le Thi Van Hue (CECAD)**

**3. Speech of Mr. Vo Hoang Minh – Deputy Director of Fisheries Sub-Department of Tra Vinh province**

- In 2020: The total shrimp farming area is 60,000 hectares, the output is 150,000 tons
- Diversifying types of shrimp farming: white-leg shrimp, giant freshwater shrimp, and also developing mangrove shrimp. The current area of shrimp-mangrove is 3,200 ha
- Tra Vinh agricultural sector is restructuring towards the goal of sustainable development of shrimp farming, including shrimp-mangrove farming;
- Tra Vinh Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will work closely with CECAD to implement the project

**4. Presentation on organic certification of shrimp farming - Mr. Dinh Xuan Lap - Deputy Director of ICAFIS**

Discussing with Cuu Long SeaPro company

- Cuu Long company is implementing the MAM project and is in the project evaluation stage
- Currently working on EU certification

- Prawn fry are from Thao Nguyen farm – they have organic certification for the fry
- Tra Vinh is having a problem with the fishing pesticides
- People have septic toilets in their homes, so there is no problem of wastewater affecting the farming area

## **5. Discussion**

### **Shrimp farming households:**

- Should plan shrimp farming areas, clearly divide ecological shrimp farming areas, not to mix with industrial farming households. Because wastewater discharging from the industrial farming households can affect ecological shrimp farming households.
- There should be a focal point to buy organic shrimp, to ensure higher value organic shrimp farming

### **Mr. Minh - Deputy director of Sub-department of Aquaculture**

- There is a plan for shrimp-mangrove farming and industrial shrimp farming
- Every year, the locality has a schedule to renovate shrimp ponds to avoid wastewater from industrial shrimp ponds affecting the surrounding
- For the proposed plan of linking with shrimp farmers: all households are willing to participate

### **Mr. Trung - Forest Protection Department**

- Mangrove management software to update the forest to each household
- When the project is implemented, the forest ranger will support and coordinate to monitor the forest area in the farming ponds
- Mangrove ratio 30 - 70 or 60 - 40. It is possible to calculate the total, but it is difficult for each household.
- The total area of integrated shrimp farming forest 3,500 ha
- The central government supports mangrove protection 500,000 VND/ ha. It is necessary to combine aquaculture
- If people have ecological shrimp certificates, their income can be increased

### **Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Chi - Cuu Long SeaPro Company**

- The company is approaching the stage of getting certified organic shrimp but is also facing difficulties
- People have not realized the real benefits of organic shrimp
- There is a huge demand for organic shrimp as customers aim for better health and environmental values
- Cuu Long company commits to organic shrimp = market price + 5,000 to 10,000 VND/kg; and support 500,000 VND/ha of forest through support for shrimp prawn fry
- There will be follow-up meetings with farmers to discuss in detail
- Need cooperation from the people to implement the project: according to the company's 2018 - 2019 survey, people do not use antibiotics; and EU

standards, shrimp seed must be natural, not supplemented. Current problem in Tra Vinh is using tuba root (*Derris elliptica*) because it can cause Parkinson disease.

- Some households renovate extensive ponds to industrial shrimp farming households, which affects the environment; or industrial farming households affect the ecological farming households on wastewater
- Source of shrimp prawn fry is not guaranteed. Cuu Long company associated with Thao Nguyen company has certified organic shrimp fry with acceptable price.
- Buyers also need to participate in the project's chain to ensure quality

**Mr. Dinh Xuan Lap:**

- Tuba root (*Derris elliptica*) that kills algae, and destroys red blood cells in red blood. There must be a clear agreement on the using of this plant.
- There should be a memorandum of understanding for the parties to implement, with clear terms
- People also need to take notes carefully

**Representative of the households:**

- The common problem now is the usage of tuba root
- People's habit is to only see the immediate benefits
- The output of organic shrimp farming is low, while input costs are high.
- The price of buying organic shrimp is higher than 5,000 VND to 10,000 VND/kg. People are not interested in this.
- In Bac Lieu province: The chain link is very good, and there is good support from the company, especially input support for shrimp farmers
- Propose: the project and the company need to study clearly to consider the initial support for the people more, then when people are good with this farming model, they can gradually withdraw the support.
- It is recommended to establish a cooperative group and pay the management board to strengthen the management of the cooperative group
- When other fish come to the pond, they eat the shrimp. When using Sabonin, it takes 3-4 days for the fish to die. The cost of this solution is high. Meanwhile, it only takes about 15 minutes to kill the fish using tuba root. Tuba root is effective, low cost, so it is difficult to recommend not to use it for people.

**Ms. Phuong Chi - Cuu Long SeaPro Company**

- The company's expenses are quite large. Cost for ecological shrimp assessment is high: 1000 USD/day; total evaluation package cost is 6,300 USD
- Ecological shrimp farming is still allowed to raise other types of aquatic products.
- The company currently has an ecological shrimp farming project with 150 households. And there are 40 households that have been stocked.
- Profit comes from not only selling price but in higher survival rate.

Question: Reviewers recommend against using tuba root, so what really is the problem. The carp dies, but the mullet doesn't die

**Dr. Le Thi Van Hue:**

- The project will consult experts on the issue of tuba root use
- The project will build a sustainable ecological shrimp farming cooperative, sign a cooperation agreement with the company and shrimp farming households, including the approval of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Tra Vinh province

**Mr. Minh - Deputy Director of Fisheries Sub-Department of Tra Vinh province**

- The Department will work closely with the project to implement effective activities

**ANNEX  
INCEPTION WORKSHOP PHOTOS**







