

ATP helps Aceh rejuvenate prawn farming industry



Aceh Province, Indonesia

The Agrifood Technologies Pte Ltd (ATP), a subsidiary consultancy company of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), was engaged by Network Indonesia to undertake an aquaculture reconstruction project for a fisheries school set up by the federal and provincial governments in Banda Aceh Regency, Aceh Province, Indonesia. This project comprised the reconstruction of a model shrimp hatchery and grow-out ponds, and the provision of training on modern shrimp hatchery and production technology.



Room aplenty in these grow-out ponds for prawns to grow to marketable sizes



Aceh officer in consultation with AVA's Dr Kueh & Dr Ling on hatchery construction

The idea of a reconstruction project was conceived in mid 2005 following the devastating impacts of the Indian Ocean tsunami on the Aceh province. Funded by Network Indonesia, ATP conducted its exploratory mission on 18 July 2005 to identify possible aquaculture restoration projects. After consulting the provincial fisheries department (Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan Aceh) and a local reconstruction agency (Badan Rehabilitation and Reconstruction), ATP identified the restoration of prawn production as a priority as Aceh used to be one of the top 5 producers of prawns in Indonesia, and restoration activities in this area had been minimal since the tsunami.

Reconstruction of model shrimp hatchery and grow-out ponds

Work for the reconstruction of a model shrimp hatchery and grow-out ponds commenced in February 2006. Targeted to be ready by February 2007, the model hatchery and ponds, complete with a laboratory, will provide the school with the necessary facilities to train students in prawn farming.



Beyond chalk-and-talk, Dr Kueh and Dr Ling engaging in fruitful interaction with participants



Training on appropriate modern shrimp hatchery and production technology

Apart from the reconstruction of the hatchery and ponds, training was provided to the trainers and students of the fisheries school. The training, which consisted of three modules, provided a comprehensive coverage on prawn hatchery and culture operations such as hatchery design; broodstock management; water quality management; biosecurity and biosanitation. The training which commenced in April 2006 was successfully completed in November 2006.

This aquaculture reconstruction project is expected to create a positive impact on the restoration of aquaculture in the Aceh province. ATP would like to express its appreciation to Network Indonesia for funding the project which would contribute to creating a sustainable means of livelihood for the Aceh community through the farming of prawns.