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Abstract

Giant Freshwater prawns are of economic value with good taste in different cookings, popular among foreign and Thai Consumers. They are found in waterways connected to the sea, thus living in brackish and freshwater.

The objective of this research was to study general features on fish raisers in the irrigation area and outside of it and on investment and returns, management and problems in such fish raising business. The sample group consisted of 20 households : 10 from the irrigation area, 10 from outside of it in these sub-districts: Buaban, Nachuek, Donsombun and Lamkhlong.

The results of the study:

Most household heads were male in both areas, between 35-51 years old, having finished, at the highest, Parthom Suksa VI, with rice growing as chief occupation and fish business as minor. There were 3.9 persons in the irrigation area and 4.80 outside of it. Their holding area was 10 rai and 13.1 in the irrigation area and outside of it. The size of the pond was 3.72 rai per raising farmer and 5.38 rai in the irrigation area and outside of it. The raising experience was experience was 6 years and 2.3 years. In the irrigation area and outside of it. In 2003, the average cash income was 184,000 baht and 301,280 baht in the irrigation area and outside of it. The amount of loan was 58,700 baht and 51,900 baht respectively. The average amount of investment per batch of raisers The average amount of investment per batch of raisers was 126,198.30 baht and 129,921.99 baht respectively. The nett profit was 27,301.80 baht and 24,436.11 baht respectively. For production management, the number of laborers was 2.5 persons and 2.2 respectively while the number of ponds was 3.1 and 7.2 respectively. Most raisers released spawn and time in the irrigation area and twice outside of it. In 2003, the number of young prawns

released was 275,000 and 319,000 respectively, while the amount of prawn production was 1,535 kilos and 2,256 respectively.

Problems found in giant freshwater prawn raising were a lack of water because of water change with one third every 15 days for the increase of oxygen in fish ponds, as well as a lack of fund for these raising farmers; a high cost of fish food and an improper releasing rate of prawns, thus causing disease..

This prawn raising in the open system could bring about pollution and environment problems, but do not appera at rpresent. In the future, with an increase in raising, problems can arise. The solutions are for the waste water to be threatad bdfore draining into the Pao River.