F-20: Economics and performance of shrimp hatcheries

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At present, shrimp culture is one of the fastest growing industries in Sri Lanka. Availability of healthy post larvae was mandatory for the success of this industry. Published data was not available on the economic performance of hatcheries in Sri Lanka. The main objectives of this study were to determine relationships between selected environmental parameters and hatchery performance with an economic evaluation of medium-scale and small-scale hatcheries.

Post larval production and environmental parameters such as maximum temperature, rainfall, were found to be significantly ($P < 0.05$) correlated. Hatcheries were found to be economically viable enterprises with very short pay back period. Hazardous environmental effects of hatchery production have been minimized in medium-scale and large-scale indoor hatcheries.

Unit cost of production when calculated for one million post larvae in a medium scale hatchery was Rs.0.57/pL while variable cost was Rs.0.05/pL. Cost of production for a small scale hatchery was Rs.0.65/pL while the variable cost was Rs.0.07/pL respectively.

This data may be an encouragement to construct more shrimp hatcheries, since, non availability of post larvae was limiting the expansion of the industry in Sri Lanka.