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Potentials and possibilities of aquaculture industry: A survey in Uva province

Fourth largest of Sri Lanka's nine provinces, Uva is unique in several aspects. Uva is an interesting mixture of 7 agro-ecological zones. The objective of this study was to investigate the present status of Aquaculture industry & identify the future potentials in Uva province. Using a questionnaire a survey was carried out. Data was collected from fisheries extension officers in Uva province. The annual rainfall varies 1000 mm to 3000mm & annual temperature varies 15C° to 30C°. This unique nature of climate provides excellent grounds for aquaculture industry. Uva is the source of nearly ten reservoirs & entire reservoirs or parts of them. There are 3 large-scale permanent tanks, 35 medium and small-scale permanent tanks, 150 seasonal tanks & 200 farmers' ponds in Moneragala district. Badulla district consists of 10 medium and small-scale permanent tanks, 25 estate tanks, 50 seasonal tanks and 100 farmer's ponds. Especially indigenous species common under capture fishery in Uva. They are *Channa ssp* and *Labeo dussumieri*. Existing cultured fish species are Indian carps, Chinese carps, Common carp & Tilapia species. Freshwater prawns are also available in some perennial tanks in Badulla district. There is a very big potential to introduce prawns, grass carp, male Tilapia to Uva introducing new techniques such as cage culture, integrated fish farming, Polyculture & mini hatcheries. But establishment of a proper marketing channel and introduction of post harvest techniques, especially cold storage facilities and technology to produce value added products with improved transport facilities are the crying needs of the hour.