

Transforming Aquaculture for a Sustainable Economy: Lessons Learned from Thailand

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ABSTRACT:

Thailand has been the world leader in marine shrimp production. Originally, as a native shrimp species, the black tiger shrimp industry has dominated the country's production. Currently, the production of the white Pacific shrimp has dominantly accounted for 99% of the total shrimp market of the country, while the black tiger shrimp has been positioned as niche product. Nevertheless, the past investment on R&D is not wasted as it has supported Thailand's competitiveness in shrimp production industry, especially for disease outbreak management, diagnostics, reproductive maturation and genomic-based breeding program. From the lessons learned for the rise and fall of the shrimp industries, Thailand has issued various policies such as ecosystem restoration for nature and livelihoods and encouragement for 'local production for local consumption' in order to remain competitive in other aquatic animal productions. Ultimately, these strategies aim to ensure the nation and the world's food security and sustainability.