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LETTER OF ATTESTATION

Shrimp production is essentially a preserved for the advanced countries however due to space constrains it is largely restricted to coastal environment where salinity places a major role. Among the West Africa coastal countries there is no such venture even though conditions are conducive for shrimp culturing and could be ascribed to lack of capital and technical knowhow. As initiators and adventurers, we took a bold decision to venture into this an uncharted terrain in Ghana to produce post larval (PL) to table size tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) in Ada a town on the east coast about 90 km from the capital city Accra.

Since it is one of its kind in the sub-region, we have to rely on the fish feeds made for Tilapia species (mostly *Oreochromis niloticus*) from one of fish feed producing company in Ghana for feeding our PL stocks. Though we compacted the pond bottom very well and making sure all debris are cleared however, due to the nature of the feed (because they are not exactly made for shrimp consumption) we encountered numerous challenges. Some of these hurdles are depleted dissolved oxygen levels, bad odour (anaerobic condition leading to conversion of sulphate to hydrogen sulphide) and high turbidity and high mortality of PLs. The solution to these problems were 24 hour aeration, changing of water and application of waste digester. This however, cumulated to high cost of production, regular maintenances of the pond dike (as a result of collapsing of pond walls causes by wave generated through the 24 hour aeration) and ineffectiveness of the waste digester. Additionally, it is unsustainable with our target in mind. We then resort to purchasing of shrimp feed from overseas. However due to delay in shipment and unstable nature of the Ghanaian currency to the US dollar, feed importation was also hampering the progress of our farm and limiting the urge to expand the farm. As such we purchased a feed milling machine and sort to mobilize local ingredient with combination of other imported stuffs for production of the feeds. This is currently under trial level.

Our challenge of bad water quality due to left over feeds was finally resolved when we started using BZT waste digester in 2016.



The application of the BZT waste digester has improved the water quality tremendously and cut done aeration time and cost. We now applied it in all the ponds even where water quality seem manageable we still applied it. This is because the BZT waste digester converts all left over feeds into useful products for the shrimp to feed on. We are now relief of bad water quality management and focusing on the expansion of the farm.

We also recommend the BZT waste digester to any shrimp farmer 100 % without any reservation for it application.

FARM MANAGER

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