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**News: Shrimp Farming**

- Recently, India refuted the allegations made by a US based Human Rights Group of abusive conditions at shrimp farms in India.
- India stated that entire India's shrimp exports are certified by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and there is no scope for such concerns.

**Shrimp Farming**

- A Shrimp is a crustacean (a form of shellfish) characterised by a semi-transparent body flattened from side to side and a flexible abdomen terminating in a fanlike tail.
- Their close relatives include crabs, crayfish, and lobsters. They occur in all oceans, in shallow and deep water, and in freshwater lakes and streams.

**Shrimp Farming**

- Shrimp Farming is about raising shrimp in controlled environments such as ponds, tanks, or raceways for human consumption.
- They prefer warm water, with temperatures between 25-30°C (77-86°F).

- Preferred soil textures are clay-loam or sandy-clay loam, slightly alkaline soil with pH between 6.5 and 8.5 is optimal.
- A minimum of 5% calcium carbonate in the soil is beneficial for shrimp farming.

### **Status of Shrimp Farming in India**

- India is one of the world's largest shrimp exporters.
- In 2022-23, India's seafood exports stood at USD 8.09 billion or ₹64,000 crore and shrimps accounted for a bulk of these exports at USD 5.6 billion.
- India's share of seafood exports in the U.S. market was 40% in 2022-23, far ahead of rivals like Thailand, China, Vietnam and Ecuador.
- Andhra Pradesh is the largest shrimp producer state in India which accounts for 70% of India's shrimp output.
- West Bengal and Gujarat are other major players in shrimp farming, with Sundarbans in West Bengal and Kutch in Gujarat being a key producer.

### **Regulation**

- All shrimp units are registered with MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority) and FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India).

- They follow a HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) based food safety management system as per the US Code of Federal Regulations.
- Usage of pharmacologically active substances in aquaculture has been banned since 2002.
- Also, National regulations and monitoring measures like the National Residue Control Plan, ELISA screening labs, in-house labs, and pre-export checks are in place.

## **Marine Products Export Development Authority**

### **(MPEDA)**

- The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is a Government of India company headquartered at Kochi.
- It was constituted on 24 August 1972, under the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act 1972 (No.13 of 1972).
- The role envisaged for the MPEDA under the statute is comprehensive - covering fisheries of all kinds, increasing exports, specifying standards, processing, marketing, extension and training in various aspects of the industry.
- MPEDA functions under the Department of Commerce, Government of India and acts as a coordinating agency with different Central and State Government establishments engaged in fishery production and allied activities.

- Marine Products Exports Development Authority has developed a certification scheme for aquaculture products called Shaphari, a Sanskrit word that means superior quality of fishery products suitable for human consumption.
- We already have a National Residue Control Programme for food safety issues in farm produce and pre harvest system in place.
- Frozen shrimp produce is the biggest sea food export item from the country, accounting to 50.58% in quantity and 73.2% in terms of USD earnings from the sectors.
- Biggest importers are of Indian shrimp are US and China.
- Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are major shrimp producing states in India.
- Around 95% of cultured shrimp produce is exported.
- The certification process is entirely online and valid for 2 years.