

Economics of aquaculture farms

Pascal Raux

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AfriMAQUA International Conference

Towards a more sustainable aquatic food system: Interdisciplinary research on sustainable marine aquaculture in Africa

23-28 October 2023, Mombasa, Kenya



MARINE AQUACULTURE TRAINING WORKSHOP

Mombasa, Kenya, 27th – 28th October 2023

Muthu Nyali Beach Hotel & Spa Hotel, Mombasa

Farms Economics

How assessing economic performance of a farm?

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MARINE AQUACULTURE TRAINING WORKSHOP

Mombasa, Kenya, 27th – 28th October 2023

Contents:

- Aquaculture History
- Farms and Production systems
- Farms Economics
- Application to the case of shrimp farming development
- in the Indonesian province of Lampung, Sumatra



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- Aquaculture History

Aquaculture History

Although the rapid development of aquaculture is fairly recent (mid-19th century), aquaculture history is very old:

- Centuries-old in Asia: Carp in China (-2000 BC and Koi carp -500 BC), Eels in Japan...
- Fan Lai "The Classic of Fish Culture" -475 BC
- In Egypt, mural paintings in ancient tombs depict aquaculture activities dating back over 3,500 years.
- The Phoenicians, Etruscans and Romans developed fish-farming activities in coastal areas, probably based on Egyptian practices.
- In 79, Pliny the Elder had described the techniques of fish and oyster farming in his Natural History.



Facsimile of Fan Lai's book (Vth century BC)

金生至圓月內一辦小六月內二減小八月內二減小八月內二減 各三八者圓類以二月上月上月的地中个來無發意 這中有礼閒未倚子證懷這三八清二十頭也聲意 法有工水音涕一水音須喝信道也以(執地容) 社友正不當為一大音須過信道也以(執地容) 日今任尼子習誤消心在何前心前意道文作對有些

。神守者艦也所以内體治魚崩三百六十則政治



Hieroglyph of tilapia farmed in pond

Aquaculture History

In Roman times, molluscs (mainly oysters), sea bass and sea bream were farmed in coastal areas, estuaries or lagoons, which were considered to be of high quality, and which were quoted extensively in recipe books ("De re coquinaria" by Apicius in the 1st century AD). www.sicilianfishontheroad.com

First oyster farming system under ROME (+ spat collection); imported from England and Gaul. First protection measures in 1750. Modern oyster farming second half of the 19th century.



Ancient Roman marine aquaculture farm (Italy)



Aquaculture in medieval times





Engraved glass flask depicting oyster farms in Roman times

Contemporary oyster farms in the Thau Lagoon, France

N. Blanc, A. Nercessian, La cuisine romaine antique, éd. Glénat, Grenoble, 1992.

The species of fish used for aquaculture were initially very limited. The first ones used in Europe were carp imported from China for pond farming.

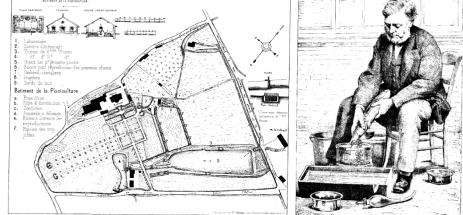
First fish farmers were monks who elaborated and developed their practices in the Middle Ages (availability of fish for Friday meals). Valliculture in Italy.



Aquaculture History

-In the 17th century the depletion of river stocks caused problems and in 1741 Stephen Ludwig Jacobi established the first trout hatchery in Germany.

-**Guillaume Bouchon-Brandely**, Traité de pisciculture pratique et d'aquiculture en France et dans les pays voisins, 1876 (available online at Gallica, BNF)



Plan de l'Etablissement de Pisciculture de M.de Féligonde à StGenêst l'Enfant. (Puy-de-Dôme)

La Fécondation Artificielle. Méthode Coste

-Further development followed with the control of reproduction and larval rearing (for a long time the hindrance to development). Artificial feeds...

-Intensive mariculture from Japan in the 60s (cage aquaculture).

-Modern (marine and new) fish farming: 80s.







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- Farms and Production systems

Diversity of production systems

Extensive fresh water aquaculture

Ponds are maintained in such a way as to promote the development of aquatic fauna at a yield greater than that found in the natural ecosystem. Density is low and fish feed naturally. Certain producers provide additional feed. These ponds play an important and positive role in the landscape, water management and biodiversity.

Examples – Carp, in mixed farming with other species (whitefish, zander, pike, catfish, etc.).

Intensive fresh water aquaculture

In intensive systems, fish are bred in tanks until they reach marketable size. There are two techniques: continuous flow (river water enters tanks upstream and leaves downstream) and recirculation (the water remains in a closed circuit and is recycled and 'recirculated' in the tanks). Recirculation systems are more costly (energy), but offer better control of breeding conditions (temperature and oxygen) and water quality.

Examples - Rainbow trout, eel, catfish, sturgeon, tilapia, etc.

Marine cage aquaculture

The fish are kept in cages anchored to the seabed and maintained on the surface by means of a floating plastic framework. This form of breeding is practiced mainly in sheltered zones near shore, but more sophisticated techniques (submersible cages, remote monitoring, automatic feeding, etc.) may make it possible to move further from shore.

Examples – Atlantic salmon, sea perch, sea bream, meagre, etc.

Aquaculture of marine species in shore-based installations

Marine fishes (particularly flatfishes) can also be bred in artificial shore-based tanks supplied with seawater. Recirculation of the water creates a closed and controlled environment that is necessary for optimal production in hatcheries and nurseries for marine species.

Examples – Turbot, common sole, Senegalese sole, sea perch, gilt-head sea bream.

Extensive brackish water aquaculture

The animals (often brought in by the marine flow) are kept in lagoons developed for this purpose (ex: Italian valiculture, Spanish esteros). The semiextensive nature of this breeding is reinforced by introducing hatchery fry and providing additional feed. This type of aquaculture plays an important role in conservation of the natural coastal heritage.

Examples – Sea perch, eel, common sole, Senegalese sole, sea bream, mullet, sturgeon, shrimps and shellfish.



Shellfish farming

Shellfish farming is based on the collection of wild or hatchery spat, which feed on natural nutrients found in the environment (filter-feeding animals). Oyster and mussel farming account for 90% of European production and use a wide range of techniques: bottom-farming, on tables, wooden posts, ropes, etc. **Examples** – Oysters (oyster farming), mussels (mussel farming), clams and abalones.

Diversity of production systems

• A diversity of production systems according to species (techniques) but also between species (commodity chains) that:

-underlines strategic and commercial choices

-underlines constraints of access to production factors (capital, knowledge, land, etc.) -highlights constraints and adaptations to the environment (ecological, social and economic)

-often induces differentiated productions

-...

• Technical systems through intensification or technical leaps (non-linear):

-Extensive system (estuaries, semi-confined areas, lagoons, intertidal areas, marshes... in ponds, ropes, baskets...)

-Semi-intensive system (intensification in structures similar to extensive ones)

-Intensive system (concrete, liner or earthen ponds, offshore or coastal cages)

-**Super-intensive** system (cages, concrete ponds or liner, recirculation, more open environment)

But with no real official standards, making comparisons, assessments and regulations difficult because of this diversity, in addition to other definitions (improved extensive, semi extensive, traditional, improved traditional or traditional plus...).

Example of the diversity of production systems for a single species: shrimp culture







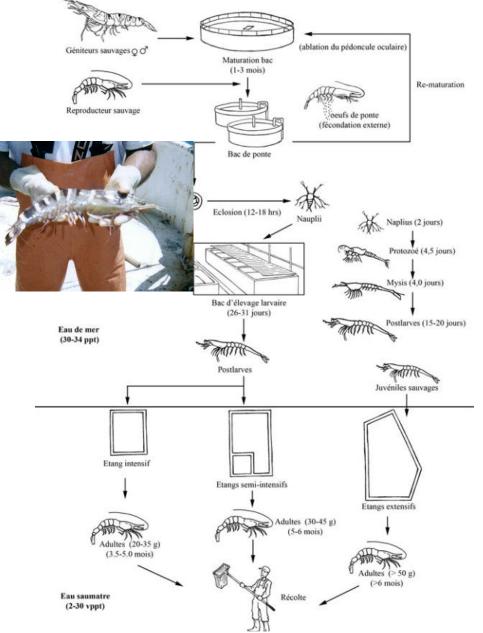








Life/Production Cycle of *Penaeus mondon* (Black Tiger shrimp)



On the opposite a rather homogenous production system; differences mainly in terms of scale or strategies rather than in terms of technical choices or strategies: pearl culture or shellfish farming (extensive systems)













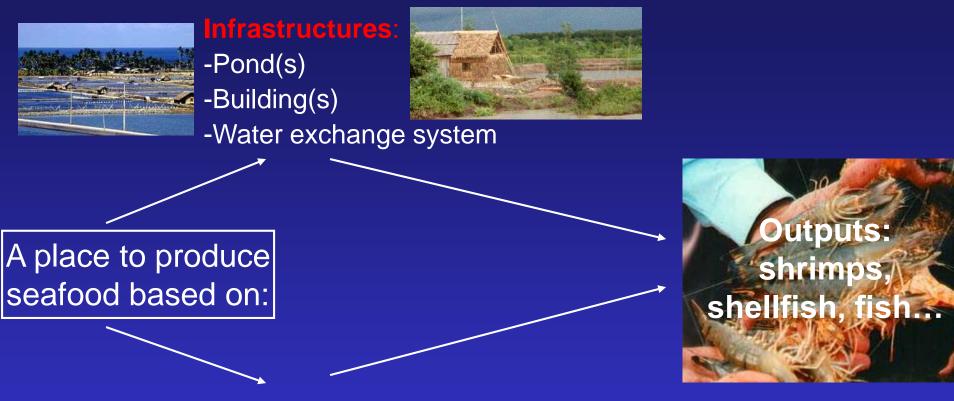






Differences in management practices (scales, operations, density) rather than in infrastructures and technical choices.

The Farm





Inputs (production factors):

-Rearing techniques

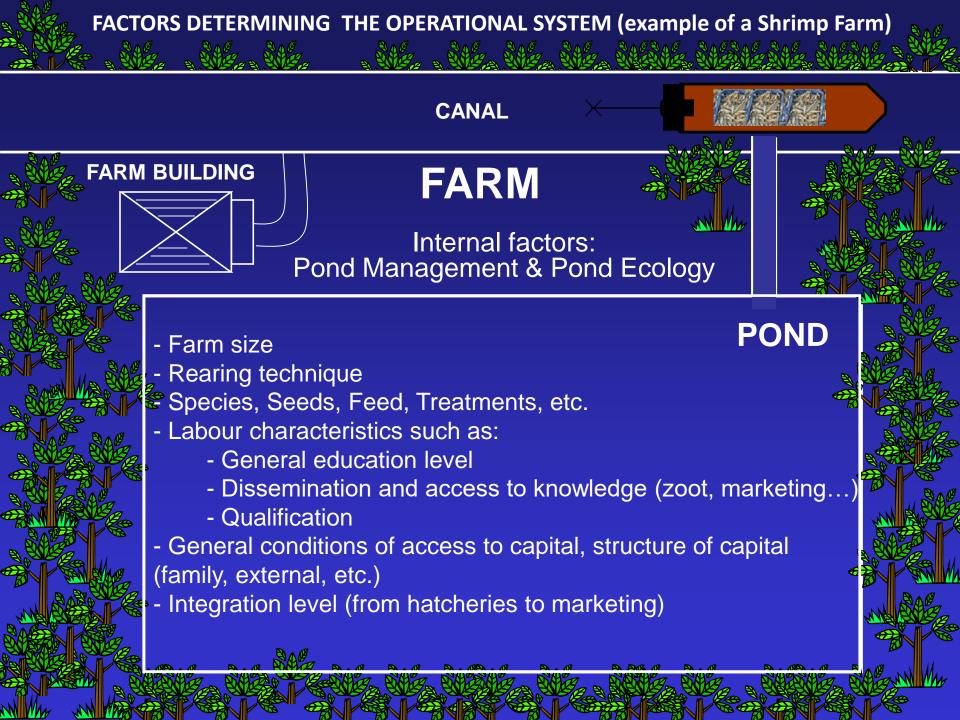
-Species, seeds, feed, etc.

- Labour characteristics...



A production system





Economic context and Markets

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MAKANANU



Ecological, social and Institutional environment (including others farms)

Farm – Internal factors

The Farm is not a closed system

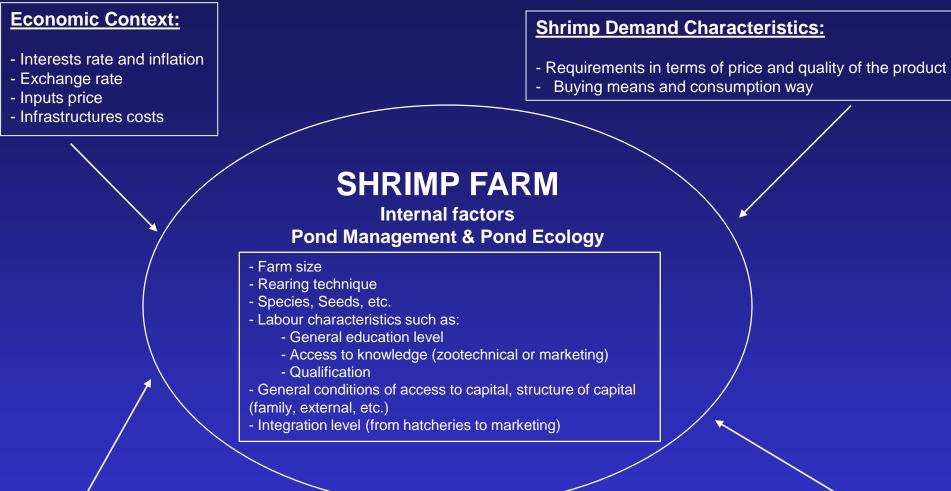
FACTORS DETERMINING THE FARM OPERATIONAL SYSTEM The farm environment



Internal factors

- Farm size
- Rearing technique
- Species, Seeds, etc.
- Labour characteristics such as:
 - General education level
 - access to knowledge (zootechnical or marketing)
 - Qualification
- General conditions of access to capital, structure of capital (family, external, etc.)
- Integration level (from hatcheries to marketing/processing)

FACTORS DETERMINING THE FARM OPERATIONAL SYSTEM The farm environment



Social and Institutional Context:

- Regulation: access to land, environment, sanitary norms
- Public incentives, research & development, training and support
- Access to support
- Collective action capacity to manage a common natural resource

Ecological Environmental Conditions:

- Quality of the coastal environment (water, soil, etc.)
- Geography, Topography
- Availability of sites or potential sites
- Land use

Then, under such constraints, in order to produce and sell an output, the farmer will have to: -combine production factors (inputs). This factorial combination will be determined by marketing choices

-Implement a technical choice

DIFFERENT MODES OF ORGANISATION

Questions that emerge:

- What is the best production system? According to what kind of organisation?
- What does mean the best one?

-the most efficiency from a technical point of view or from an economic point of view (profitability)?

-the most environmental friendly?

-the most socially efficient or just?

Are these parameters linked on a long run, i.e. in a sustainable way?

 Are we able to compare different production systems and how? According to which criteria?



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- Farms Economics: comparing different levels of performance in different contexts

A first element of comparison: the **economic performance**

MEASURE OF THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCES Measure and indicators

A farmer will have to balance between several options of production factors combination to find the best way to produce. The comparison between the different options can be assessed through several criteria: economics, ecological and/or social. Farms economics will focus on the economic performance, studying and analysing the production process (the way to produce).

• **The profit** The Profit is usually a good indicator of the economic efficiency (excluding redistributive considerations). It is measured as follow:

Profit = Income – Operational Costs – Fix Costs – Interests – Taxes

Profit before interests and taxes:



In order to compare the profitability of different production systems, the profit is expressed through a ratio. Several significant ratios can be obtained but the most common is the profit rate expressed by the profit reported to the income (or turnover). The appearance of a profit is a sign of good management of human resources, capital, etc.

MEASURE OF THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCES

Measure and indicators

<u>The cost structure</u>

As the profitability of a farm is function of its costs and income, the cost structure will give information on this profitability and its variability according to the different production factors. Related ratio could be:

- Profit / Operational costs - Fix costs / Operational costs - Feed cost / Operational costs etc.

<u>The added value</u>

The added value underscores the creating role of the farm, what is brought by the farm making the difference with what is bought by the farm. This is not a pure economic performance but rather a global one related to the local fall out of the activity.

Added Value = Production – Intermediate Consumptions

Intermediate Consumptions are Goods and Services bought outside the farm

The added value concept is more significant than the turnover because it reveals exactly the role of the enterprise. In order to compare the different technical level, the added value is expressed through a rate:

Added value rate = Added Value / Turnover

Others indicators

- The Internal Return Rate (IRR): you can compare it to the interest rate when you invest or when you deposit some money in a bank. It is defined according to a time scale.

- Time of return on investment

MEASURE OF THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCES

Measure and indicators

Main Indicators	Indicators		What about
Economic performance	Profit rate		
	Return on investment		
	IRR		
Explaining factors of the performance	Costs ratio:	Operational costs ratio	ROA (Return On
		Depreciation cost ratio	
Characterisation of the performance	Added value		Assets) and ROE (Return On Equity) ?
Technical criteria	Stocking density or PL cost		
	Technical eficiency (Kg/1000 Fry)		
	Area and Yield		
	Others are translated into economic ratio		

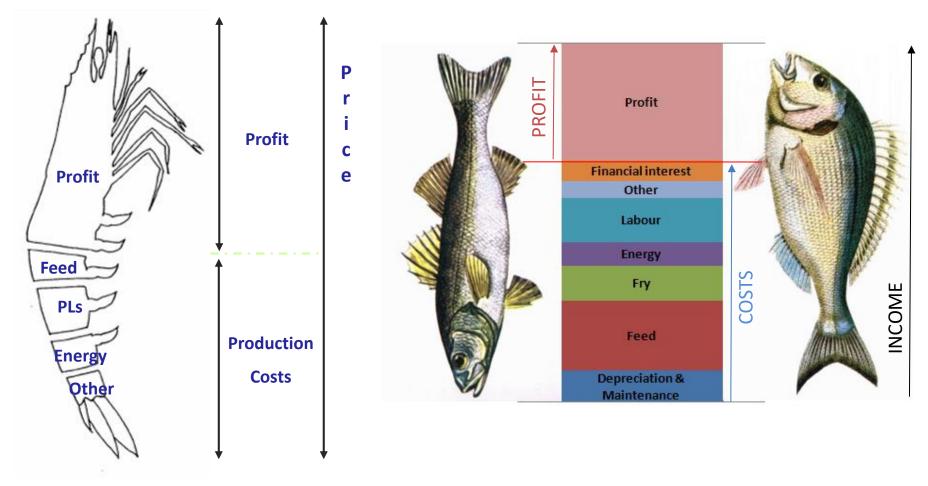
Application and use of indicators through a **Cost / Benefit analysis**. This the most common way to assess the economic feasibility. It can answer to questions such as:

- Is it profitable to invest? - What is the operational cost on one crop?

- What are the main costs and how they influence the economic performance as well as their structure ? - ...

Examples of cost structures and costs benefit analysis :

To produce 1 Kg of seafood product :



The cost structure illustrates how farmers combine inputs and provides a measure of the economic efficiency of farms. It can also provide indications on how to achieve greater technical efficiency by reducing certain costs.

MEASURE OF THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCES

Measure and indicators

Preliminary remarks before implementing a cost benefit analysis of production systems:

The way to produce rather than the yield: (think quality rather than quantity)

If the result of a crop is a volume of production, its economics translation or the economics measure doesn't attempt to the solely quantification of this result (*Production* \times *Price* = *Turnover*). The economic understanding of the output should rather rely on the way to produce, on the qualification of this result.

That means that economic indicators shall be reported to the Kg produced rather than reported to the area (ha), as too commonly observed, that will solely translate a size effect (larger area resulting in larger production and turnover).

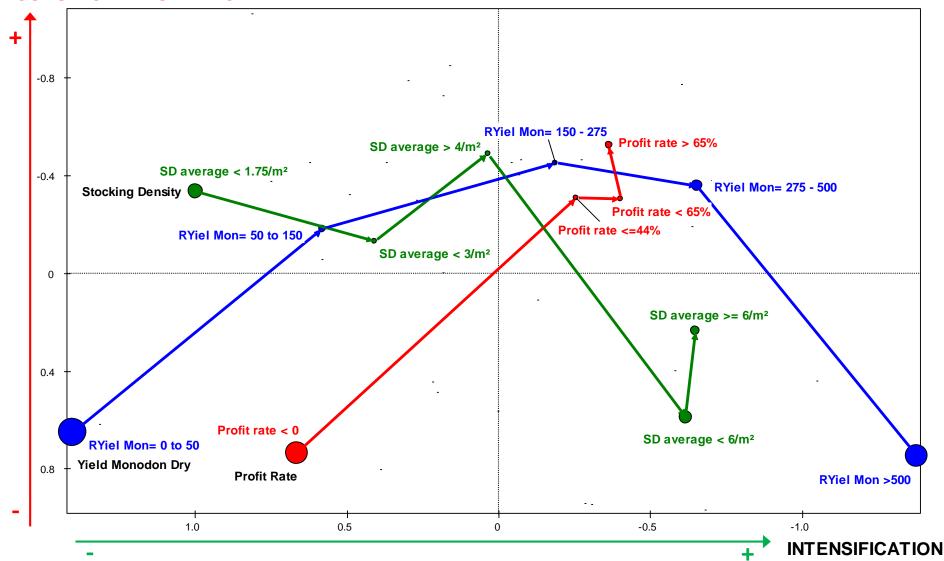
Technical performance and economic performance:

On the same way, Stocking Density, pond size, FCR, survival rate, technical efficiency are not indicators of the economic performance, but indicators of the productivity, of the technical choice and the organisation mode.

If the technical choice and its performance will influence the production and the economic performance, that doesn't mean that to a good technical performance will always correspond a good economic performance or a good economic efficiency.

Example based on a multivariate analysis of shrimp farms in the Mekong Delta (Vietnam), based on technical and economic criteria

Crossing technical and economical criteria: SD: stocking density (PL/m²) Ryield: Yield (production/ha) Profit rate: measure of the economic performance (%)



In this case, to the highest technical efficiency does not correspond the highest economic efficiency, but the lowest economic efficiency.

What information should be used? What data should be collected and how?

- Accounting services: detailed data but on an accounting and tax basis; access issue. Content poorly adapted to the scale of the production cycle (accounting year vs. production cycle). Aggregates.
- **Statistics:** reliability based on a technical classification criterion (standard systems often different from reality in the field, incomplete information, etc.). Aggregates. **Surveys** are still the preferred means of collecting data for reconstructing farm accounts, albeit with a number of constraints:
- often informal environments with little history or memory gap in production
- a parent population that is often unknown or uncharacterisable in terms of practices

This leads to **face-to-face questionnaires** which must be sufficiently detailed and explicit without being excessively long, and which are structured in a number of stages:

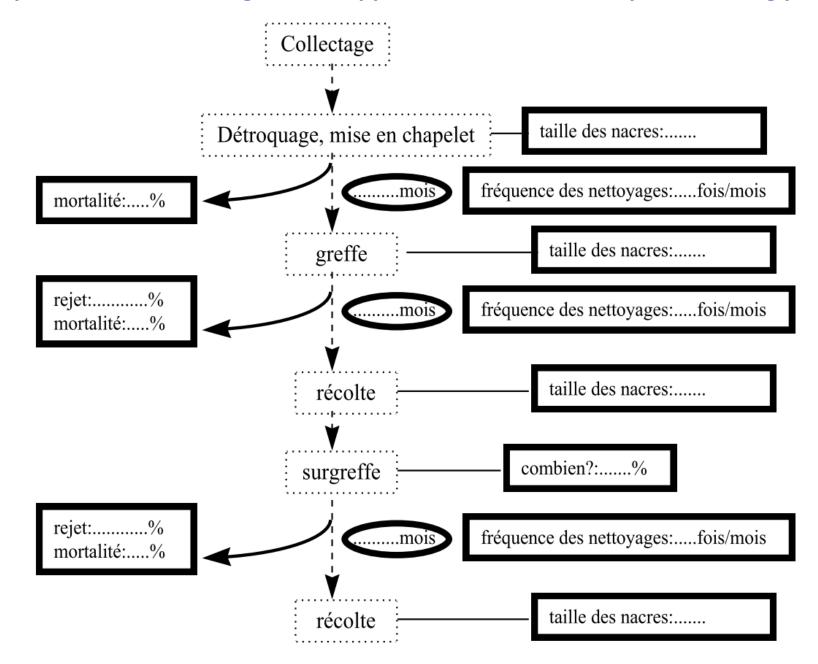
- farm environment (social and economic)
- factors which governed technical and commercial choices
- structured according to the operations calendar to estimate the production cycle (unit of time for the analysis)

What information should be used? What data should be collected and how?

Structuring a questionnaire for a farm survey aiming at supporting a socioeconomic analysis of farms (e.g. understanding the socio-economic performance). Proposal, to be adapted to each context and research issue:

- General information and structure of the farm, its history and that of its operator, its environment, its development, the acquisition of knowledge, sizing (size, units, labour and its characteristics...), records of events (disease outbreaks...)
- **2. The technical dimension** of the farm, by setting out the calendar of operations: production, management of production units, technical choices, estimation of the production cycle, etc.
- **3. Farm economics:** inputs and associated costs (fixed and operational); market and commercial choices...
- 4. General questions about the issues and potential difficulties

Example of a technical diagram to support data collection on pearl farming practices:



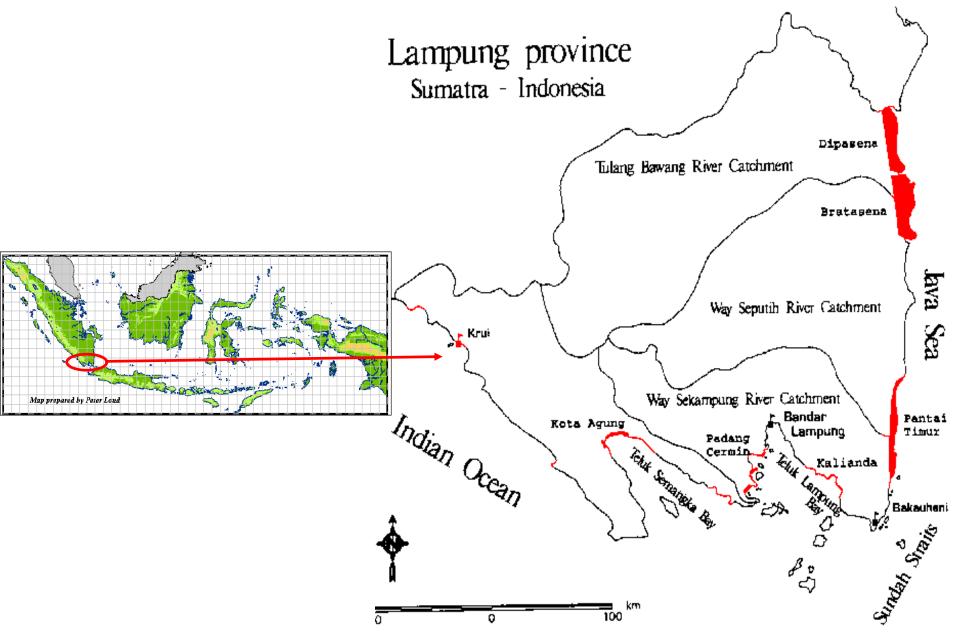


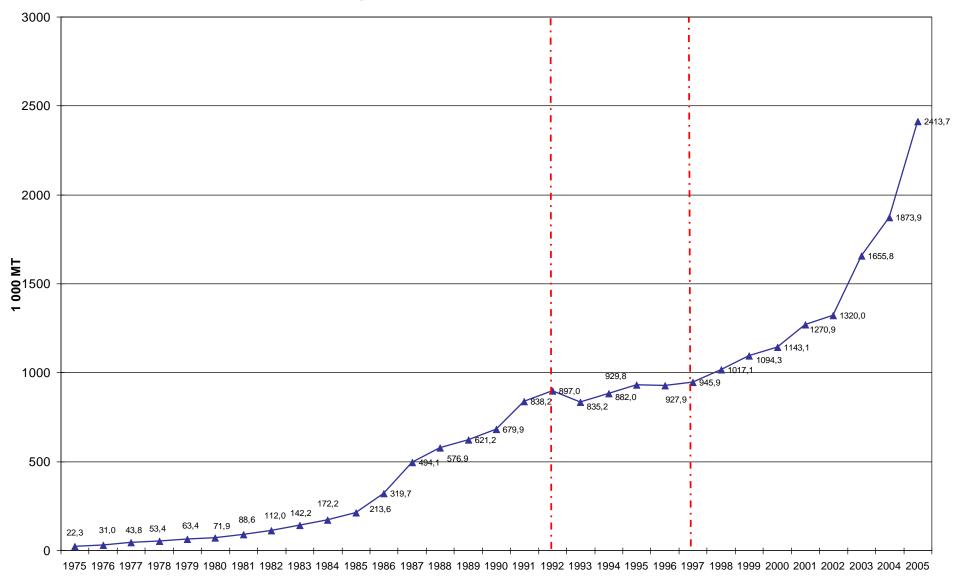
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- Application to the case of shrimp farming development in the Indonesian province of Lampung, Sumatra

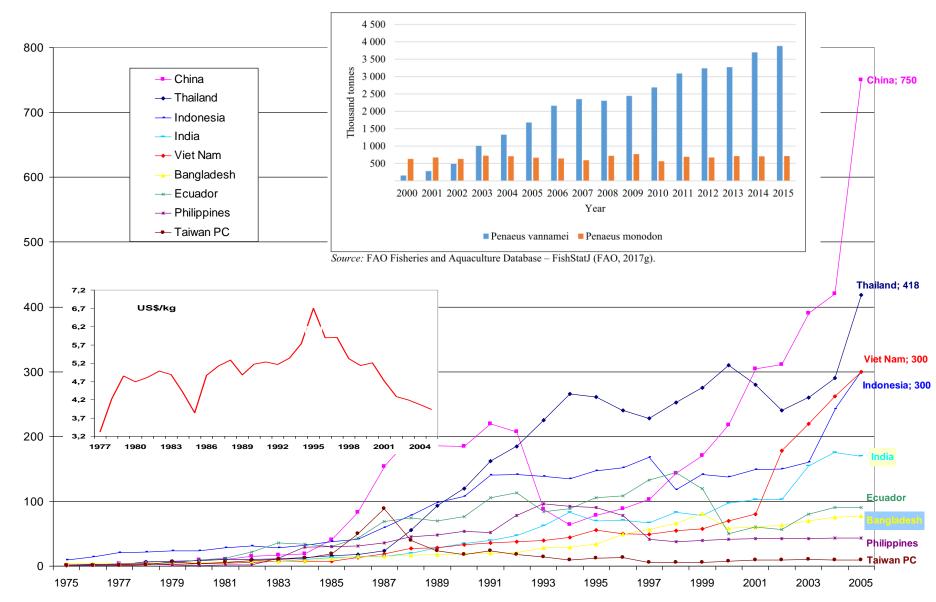
Shrimp culture on Lampung province in the 90s Sumatra, Indonesia





World shrimp farming production (1 000 MT – Globefish FISHDAB 2006)

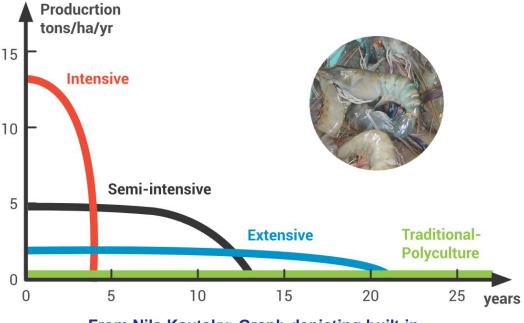
World shrimp farming production per country 1975 – 2005 (1 000 MT – Globefish)



Diversity of production systems

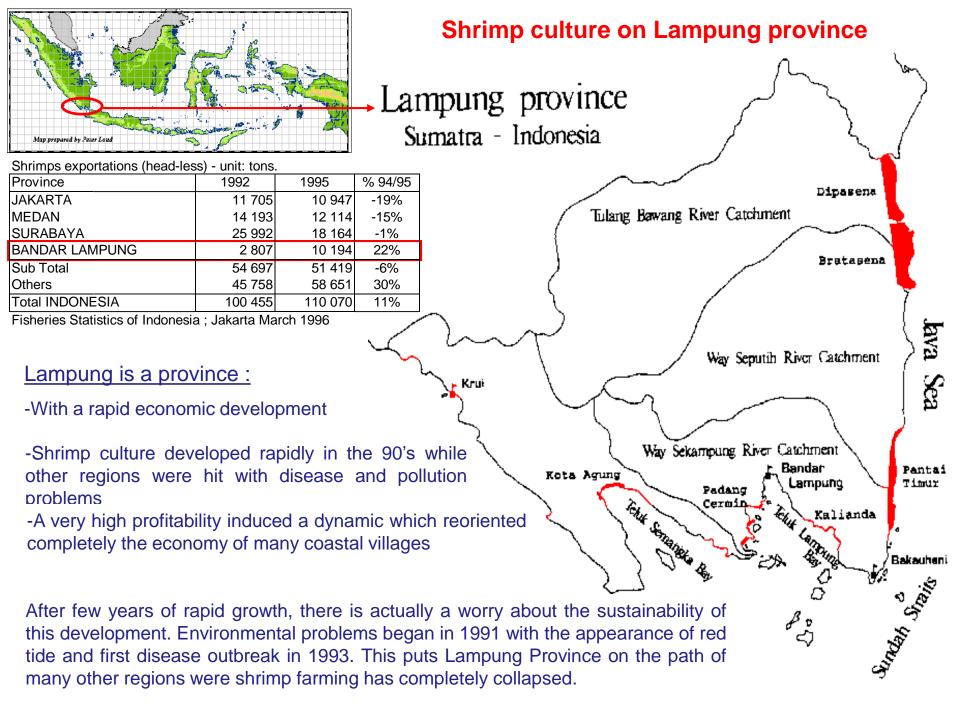
There is not one aquaculture, but many... different organisation mode

Aquaculture development policies do not take sufficient account of the 15 diversity of production systems. Production systems are also often perceived in terms of intensification 10 (stocking density) and relationship with the environment, as illustrated by the 5 following figure, which underpins the intrinsic unsustainability of industrial 0 shrimp farming (Kautsky et al.)



From Nils Kautsky: Graph depicting built-in unsustainability of Industrial Shrimp Farming

Although the figure summarizes fairly well the state of the debate and the issues at stake at the time in the development of shrimp aquaculture (maximizing profit/ha rather than the way it is produced), it can also sometimes appear too simplistic and reductive when the development issues in terms of sustainability are more complex. While there are many examples of shrimp farming development profiles that can confirm this, there are also examples that can refute it if the focus is on development profiles rather than technical systems.



Costs Benefits Analysis: the rationale

Comparing the profitability of different production systems at different levels of intensification

Studying the investment and analysing the costs and benefits in terms of level and structure of different production systems provides the basis for a comparative analysis.

Stocking density is the criterion used to classify farms by level of intensification.

S h Profit r Profit i m р р Feed r PLs Ĺ Production С Energ Costs e Dthe

The cost structure illustrates how farmers combine inputs and provides a measure of the economic efficiency of farms. It can also give indications of how to achieve greater technical efficiency by reducing certain costs.

To produce 1 Kg of shrimps:

Economic analysis of shrimp culture on Lampung province

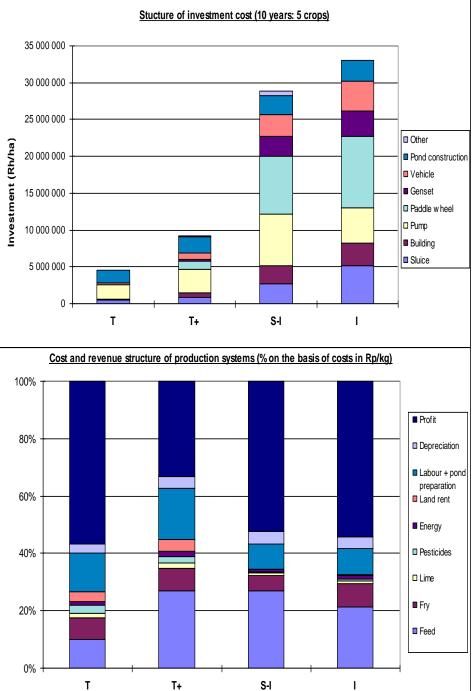
Data: a detailed survey of 100 farms; a general survey of 1000 farms.

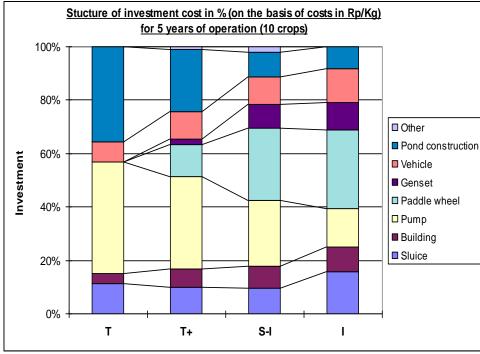
4 technical systems identified and compared: traditional (T), traditional plus (T+), semi-intensive (S-I) and intensive (I).Classification based on factorial analysis.

The results show that although there are differences in terms of investment levels and structures, the overall economic performance of the different systems is very good and comparable on average, with the exception of T+. Differences in terms of risk affect this performance (T+).



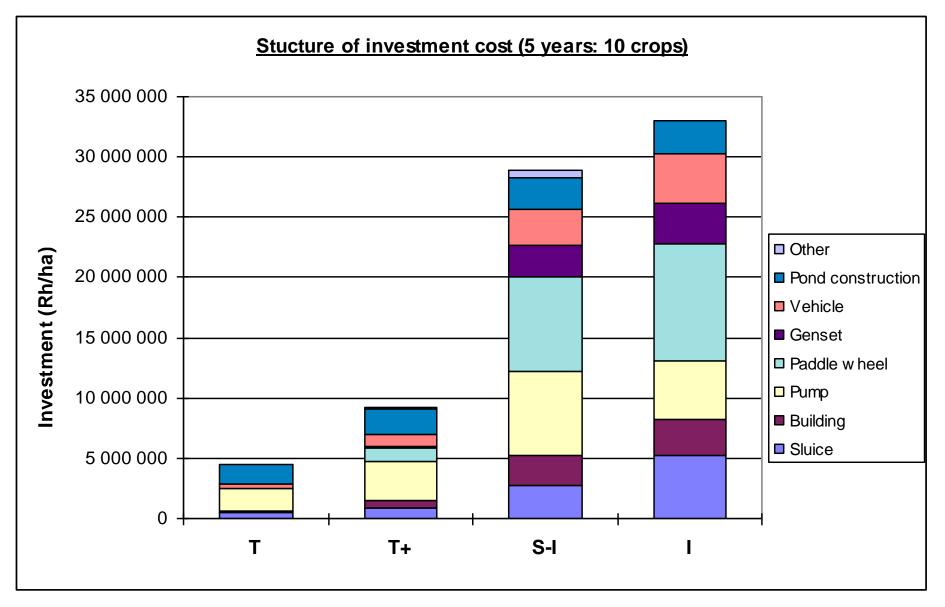
Comparing the profitability of different levels of intensification



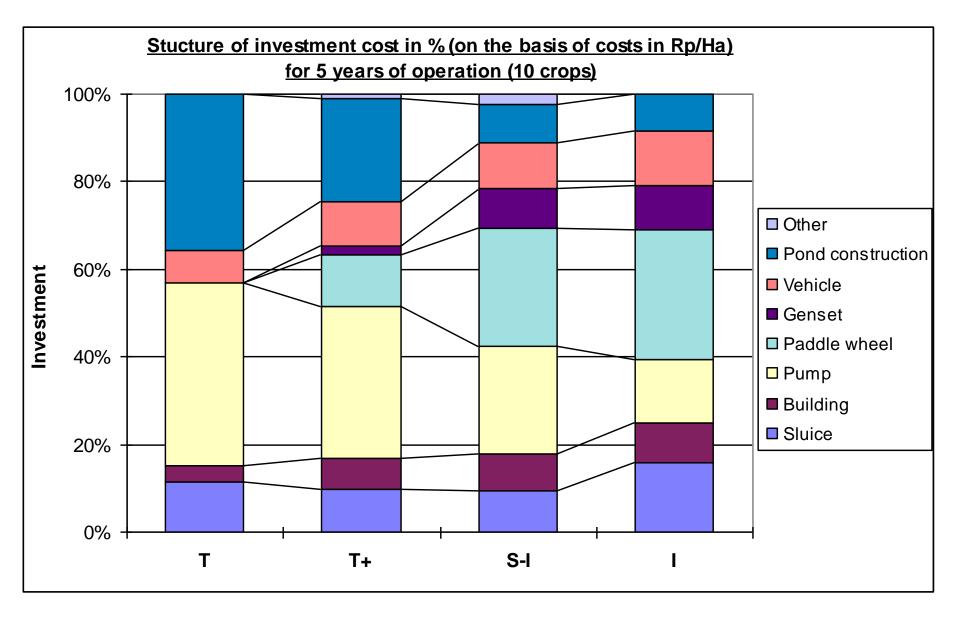


	Т	T+	S-I	I
Farm area (ha)	2,5	2,9	2,9	4,9
Stocking density (1.000 fry/ha)	26	45	115	239
Production per crop (Kg/ha)	312	514	1 569	2 335
Technical efficiency (Kg/1.000 fry)	12,4	11,5	13,8	10,1
Price (1.000Rp/kg)	16,6	16,7	17,2	17,1
Total cost (1.000Rp/kg)	7,2	11,2	8,2	7,8
Benefit (1.000Rp/kg)	9,4	5,5	9,0	9,3
Benefit/cost ratio	1,48	0,59	1,21	1,38
Added value ratio	0,73	0,55	0,66	0,67
Investment (1.000 Rp/ha)	5 543	8 542	17 791	20 979
IRR (2 crops, 1 year)	6%	-20%	41%	73%
IRR (6 crops, 3 years)	30%	26%	57%	69%
Profit rate	56,3%	33,1%	52,2%	54,1%
Return on investment (months)	11	17	7	5

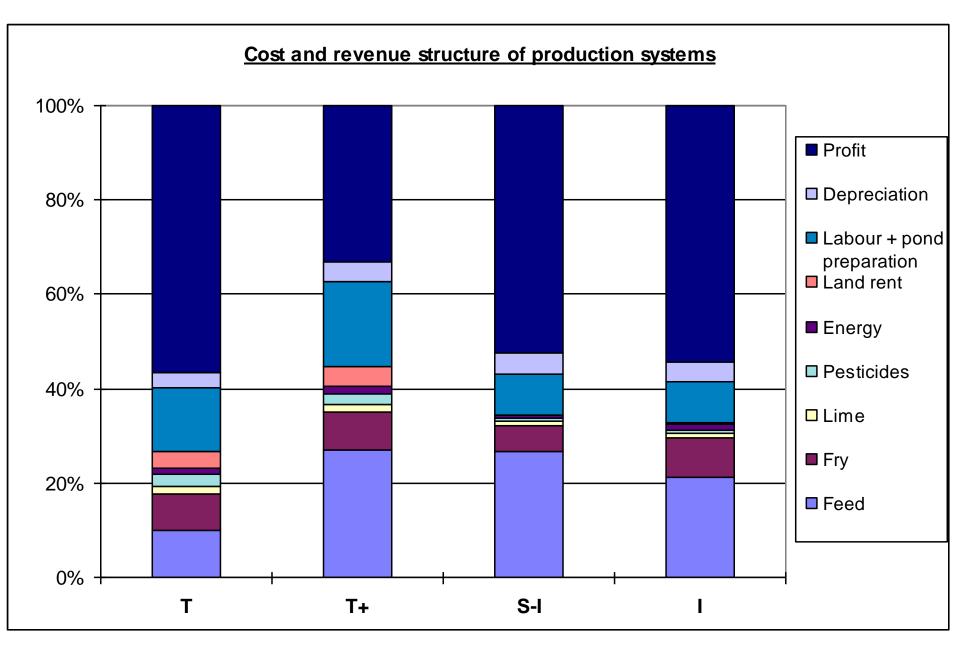
Investment cost per ha



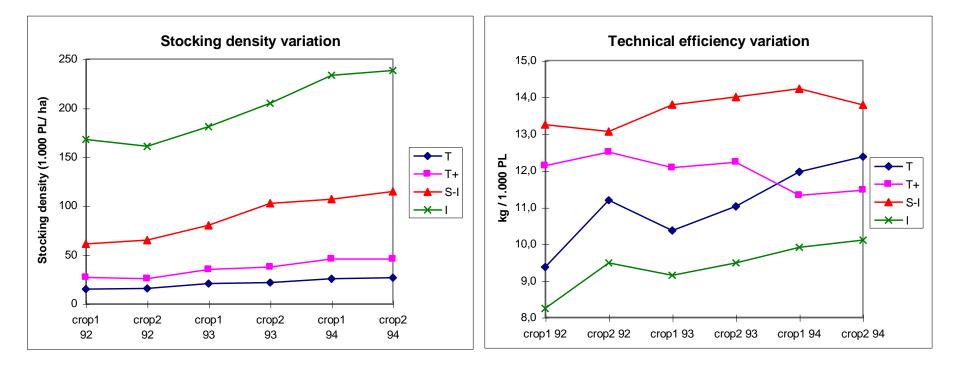
Investment cost per ha



3 different structures of investment S-I close to I



Rentabilité et Intensification, efficacité technique



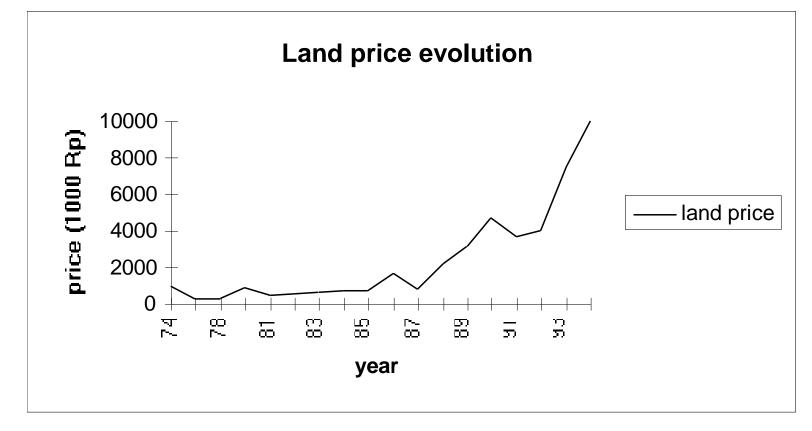
Variation of stocking density per technic				
	crop1 92	crop2 94	Evolution	
Т	15	26	77%	
T+	27	45	70%	
S-I	61	115	88%	
Ι	168	239	42%	

1.000 Rp = 0,4 US\$ (1996)	Т	T+	S-I	I
Farm area (ha)	2,5	2,9	2,9	4,9
Stocking density (1.000 fry/ha)	26	45	115	239
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Return on investment (months)	11	17	7	5

-Economic incentives are strong; but no significant difference among traditional, semi-intensive and intensive systems in terms of economic efficiency (profit rate above 50%) or wealth distribution (added value between 65 and 73%)

-Low results of traditional plus system

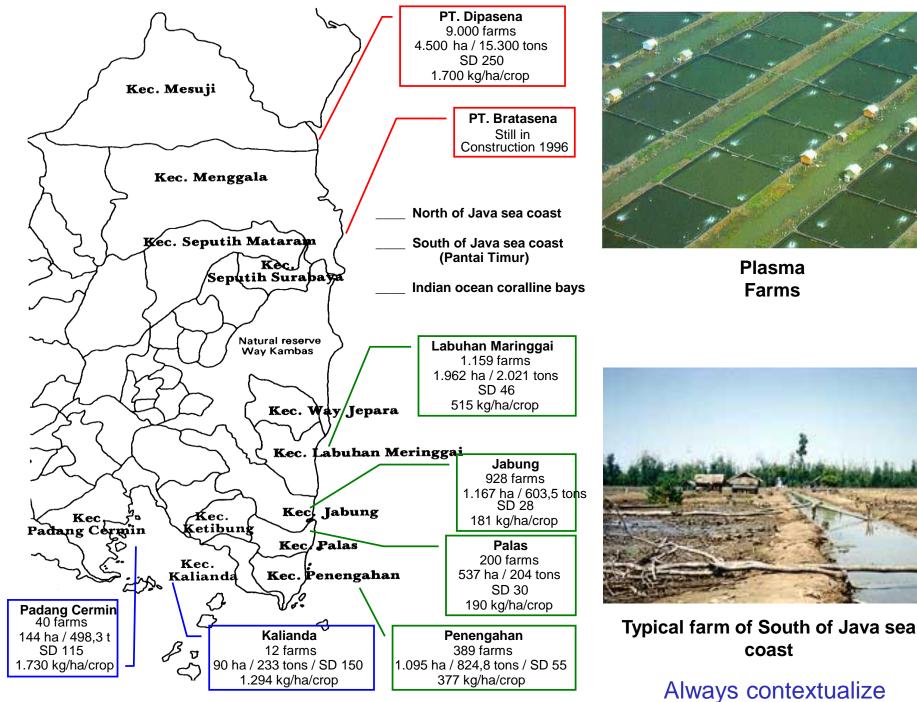
-No evidence of economic motives to support a technical system against another one (excepted at intermediate levels of intensification)



Added value and structure

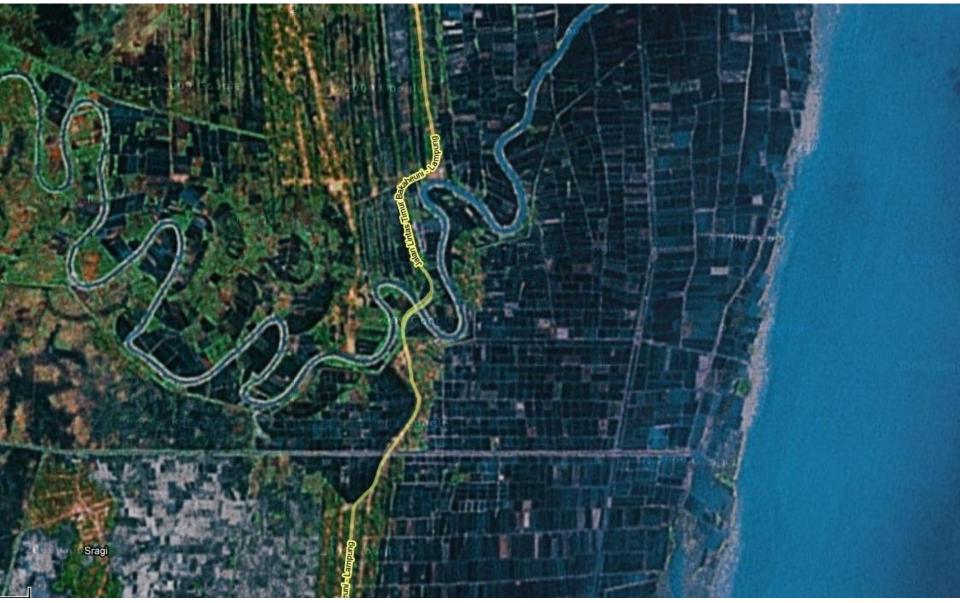
Share of added value/kg	Т	T+	S-I	I
AVR	0,73	0,55	0,66	0,67
Added value/kg	12 200	9 222	11 288	11 476
Share of labour in added value	13,8%	18,0%	8,9%	9,0%
Valorisation (price Rph/kg)	16 621	16 707	17 190	17 050
Labour (Rp/kg)	2 271	2 989	1 527	1 521

1.000 Rp = 0,4 US\$ (1996)	Т	T+	S-I	
Farm area (ha)	2,5	2,9	2,9	4,9
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Investment (1.000 Rp/ha)	5 543	8 542	17 791	20 979
TRI (2 crops, 1 year)	6%	-20%	41%	73%
TRI (6 crops, 3 years)	30%	26%	57%	69%
Return on investment (months)	11	17	7	5
Profit rate	56,3%	33,1%	52,2%	54,1%
Profit/total cost	1,48	0,59	1,21	1,38
Profit/operational cost	1,60	0,64	1,35	1,50
Depreciation/operational cost	0,08	0,07	0,11	0,09
Depreciation/total cost	0,07	0,06	0,10	0,08
Operational cost/total cost	0,93	0,94	0,91	0,91
Feed cost/total cost	0,23	0,41	0,56	0,47
PL cost/total cost	0,19	0,12	0,12	0,18
Profit/ha/crop (1.000 Rp/ha)	3 034	3 045	14 746	23 050



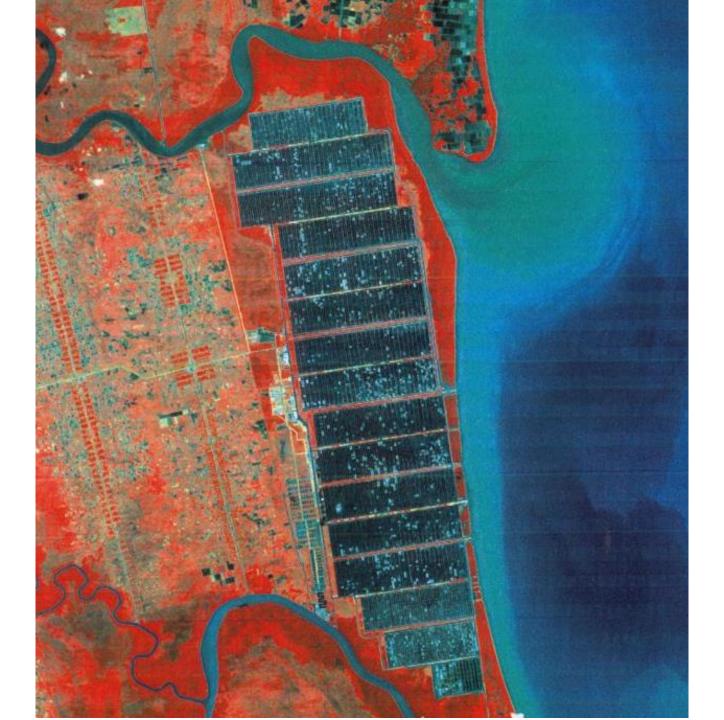
SD: Stocking Density in 1.000 PL / ha as a global indicator.

East Lampung : Java Sea – Small scale private or family based farms (endogenous development)



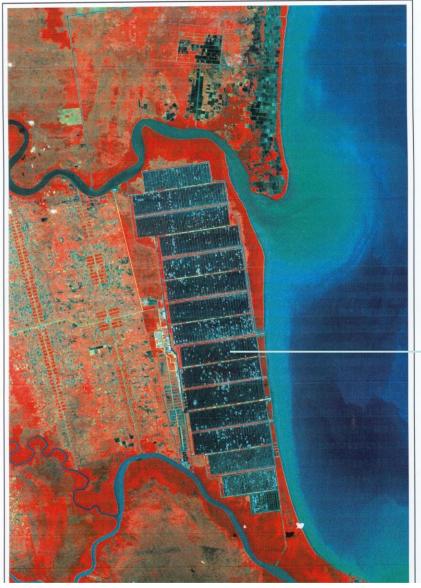
East Lampung Est : Java Sea – Plasma Farms





Inti Plasma system

Dipasena site - scale 1/ 150 000



Dipasena:

9,000 Farms

18,000 ponds

16,250 ha of which 4,500 ha of ponds

More than 20,000 people: farmers (households) and employees



South Lampung : Kalianda, coraline bay site



Summary and conclusion for the comparison of the 3 development profiles identified:

-The plasma system is based on large areas developed by a single investor providing technology, inputs and market outlets to selected farmers and managing two 0.25 ha ponds under a leasing system. Two units of this type existed in 1996, with a total of 4,500 ha of ponds developed and a further 9,000 ha planned. They are installed in previously uninhabited mangrove areas with a coastal environment under low anthropic pressure, but at an intermediate level in terms of containment. Production is very intensive, with relatively low technical efficiency on average (7 kg/1000 PL) but very good economic results, with very high overall pressure on coastal waters (discharges). Compared with other areas, the pressure on the coastal ecosystem is very high and it can be said that in the short term environmental sustainability has been fairly well controlled. Part of this success can be explained by centralised management of water (the resource), technology and marketing. However, the social conditions and environmental sustainability of such a development are more questionable. As a consequence, the system had to face a social collapse.

-Endogenous local development in the coastal villages of the south coast along a 50km stretch of coastline illustrates the difficulty of mastering technology and water quality management among more than 2,700 small-scale farmers. This is typical of rapid, disorganised development in which all local resources have been invested. It performed very well at low and intermediate levels of intensification in the early stages of development. But today this development is more under threat from disease and pollution problems. Technical performance varies greatly from one place to another. The ability to generate effective collective action is crucial to ensuring the future of shrimp farming.

-The small semi-intensive and intensive farms scattered around the coral bays have good technical efficiencies (10 to 15 kg/1,000 PL) and benefit from the best water quality and few problems of interaction between farms. But they face stiff competition for access to production areas and the sea from other activities such as tourism.