

Increasing capacity of government and private sector shrimp hatchery technicians in Fiji

The Pacific Community (SPC) is conducting a series of training workshops under the Sustainable Pacific Aquaculture (PacAqua) project in order to build the capacity of shrimp hatchery technicians from Fiji's Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) and the Crab Company (Fiji) Ltd (CCF). The PacAqua project is funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The main objective of workshops is to build the capacity of participants and improve the supply of shrimp post-larvae for farmers in Fiji.



From left to right: Salote Dumukoro and Paulin Law, from the Crab Company (Fiji) Ltd, and Teari Kaure, from the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries, handling shrimp broodstock during the training. Image: Avinash Singh, SPC

Working together, CCF staff could have access to the latest hatchery techniques, while MoF could get a better understanding of industry requirements. At the opening of the workshop, Principal Fisheries Officer – Aquaculture, Shalendra Singh, stated that developing the budding shrimp farming sector is critical to addressing Fiji's high imports of shrimp for the hotel and tourism sector. There is a need for the government and the private sector to work together so the step taken by CCF towards developing and operating its own shrimp hatchery will go a long way towards achieving the full potential of the sector.

During the opening, Make Liebrechts, Director of CCF, stated that the Fiji Government – through the Ministry of Fisheries – has provided a supporting environment for initiatives such as those of our company: 'Over the years, we have developed an excellent working relationship with the Ministry of Fisheries, and in particular the Aquaculture staff at the Galoa hatchery. The attendance of government staff at this workshop will help to boost this relationship further as there will continue to be a need to share experiences and, at times, resources, to overcome the many possible issues that may arise so often and unexpected here in Fiji.'

The first training was conducted from 5 to 13 July 2018 by Dr Daniel Gruenberg, an international shrimp expert from Thailand. An additional two training sessions will be conducted over the next few months. Teari Kaure, Fisheries Assistant, commented that, 'We have visited several hatcheries abroad but had not had the opportunity to learn step-by-step processes that are required to successfully produce shrimp. There are opportunities to explore that would assist us to reach our annual production targets, and assist farmers and expand the sector.'

Dr Gruenberg highlighted that when using the superior specific pathogen-free shrimp *Panaeus vannamei* gene pool, performance in ponds was significantly better than when using wild-captured shrimp breeders. This is a significant factor that determines whether the industry would be profitable and competitive on the global market.

For more information:

Robert Jimmy
Aquaculture Advisor, SPC
RobertJ@spc.int