

# RGCA – MPEDA's Landmark achievement in Scampi (Giant Fresh water Prawn) Research



## **Giant fresh water prawn, *M.rosenbergii***

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA), MPEDA, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt of India, which had taken up an R&D project on Scampi broodstock development at Konathanapadu, Kankipadu Mandal, Krishna District, AP, successfully developed the First Proven Neofemale in the country and achieved production of all male progeny of the Giant fresh water prawn (Scampi- *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in the subcontinent – an enviable achievement unmatched by any research organization in the nation so far.

The technology developed at RGCA involves sex reversal of healthy Scampi males into functional females (called as Neofemales) through microsurgical interventions and crossing these females with normal males to produce all male progeny.

One of the major challenges faced by the Scampi farmers today is that with the differential growth which causes low survivals and poor yields. To overcome this, the Scampi farmers presently segregate males and females painstakingly at the farm and grow only males that grow to larger sizes in quicker time when compared to the females. Therefore, the technology, now developed by RGCA could easily resolve this major challenge of differential growth faced by the Scampi farmers and provide the much needed boost to the Scampi farming in the country which has presently touched an all time low due to several problems associated with the above.



**Harvested fresh water prawn**

The project is now just a step away from large scale production of Neofemales. Once this is achieved, the project would be able to ensure the supply of high quality all male Scampi seeds to the industry resulting in elevating the unit area production by around 40% as well as boosting up the overall Scampi Aquaculture production and exports from the country.



**First proven neo female of fresh water prawn produced in India**

As a part of this project RGCA has also completed a diallel crossing experiment for the development of an improved strain of Scampi that performs well in farming conditions. The development of all male seeds would be taken up from this strain to maximize the benefits to the industry. It is envisaged that the project would be able to produce and supply all male fresh water prawn seeds on commercial basis within next two years. The technology for all male Scampi seed production would also be passed on to the Scampi hatcheries/entrepreneurs across the country.