

## Organic Aquaculture in Rice Fields

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### Abstract

*Aquaculture is the production of fish and other marine life under controlled conditions. The global rise in aquaculture reflects declining wild fish populations around the world, coupled with rising consumer demand for seafood. Presently, India ranks second in the world aquaculture production. The brackish water area available in India for shrimp farming includes the existing traditional prawn filtration fields, which are located in Kerala and West Bengal. The vast filtration areas are actually paddy fields, where they do salt resistant paddy cultivation. This system is highly environmentally friendly, as they use no antibiotics or chemicals, and hence, the paddy fields can easily adopt organic aquaculture practices. The Kole lands in the Trichur district and the farms in Kuttanadu in the Alleppey district of Kerala are doing freshwater Prawn culture that approaches organic standards. The problems with aquaculture today is the use of wild fish for farmed fish feed, chemical and antibiotic usage, disease transfer, genetically modified species, and massive destruction of mangrove forests for shrimp farm construction. The Indian aquaculture industry is facing many problems, due to high competition in the market, rejections from abroad because of antibiotics, and the muddy smell of the shrimp. Organic aquaculture will be a good remedy for all these issues. Organic aquaculture ensures that the farming activity is in harmony with the nature, with due care for the good health and welfare of the cultured organisms. Organic products have become very popular these days, due to a rise in health and environmental awareness, concerns on food safety, and the growing demand in developed countries, especially in the US and EU. The premium for the organic products is also high in international markets.*