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RESEARCH ARTICLE.....

Experimental studies on co-culture of Shrimp, *Litopenaeus vannamei* (Boone, 1931) with sea cucumber, *Holothurian moebii* (Ludwig, 1883)

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ABSTRACT..... The pond waste management is a major concern of the shrimp farmers. The sea cucumber, *H. moebii* (weight: 79.35 ± 0.013 g) with juvenile white leg shrimps, *L. vannamei* (weight: 2.6 ± 0.18 g) were reared in co-culture and monoculture for 30 days in plastic tank with shrimp pond soil substratum. Shrimp feed was given as per shrimp feeding protocol. Laboratory study suggests that sea-cucumber reducing the percentage organic carbon in the soil. However, growth and survival of shrimp did not differ between monoculture and co-culture. Shrimp increased the level the level of organic carbon in monoculture as compared to co-culture. This study showed that co-culture of two species in earthen ponds appears to be improvement of soil condition of pond.

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