

10. Hatchery Technology for Quality Seed of Mud crab (*Scylla spp.*)

Preamble:

Mud crab is economically important portunid crab specie, *Scylla spp.*, found in all estuaries, coastal lagoons and water near shore of India. Being a delicacy with high nutritive value, mud crab has very high demand in domestic market and also for export. Mud crab culture systems commonly practiced in India are grow out (culture for seed to market size crabs), fattening and production of soft shell crabs using seed collected mainly from wild. There has been a noticeable decline in the mud crab production in the natural habitat throughout Indian coastal waters due to overexploitation and indiscriminate fishing of juvenile crab by fishermen. There is an urgent need to produce good quality hatchery seed to meet the demand.

To address the issue, College of Fisheries (DBS Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth), Ratnagiri, has developed the backyard hatchery technique of mud crab for commercial scale seed production and demonstrate its viability to promote its adoption by entrepreneurs, farmers and fishermen along the coast of Maharashtra. The project was sponsored by Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai.

Details of the Mud crab Hatchery Unit

Mud crab hatchery unit consists of four sections, namely, Broodstock management, Embryonic development, Live feed management and Larval rearing management upto seed production. Water quality parameters are maintained within the range during operation. The manual prepared provides details of the process of seed production. It guides about how to manage the broodstock, how to identify embryonic developmental stages in captivity, how to develop and maintain the live seed culture and what precautions to be taken during the larval development. Technology is ready for use.





Fig.1



Fig.2

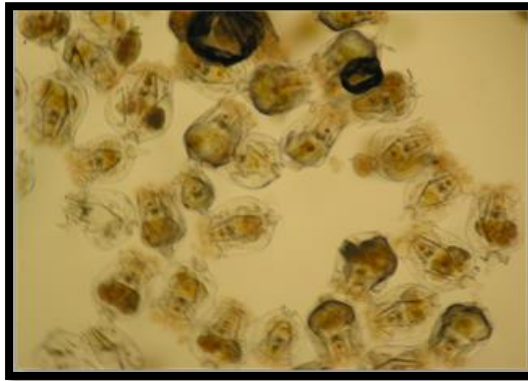


Fig.3



Fig.4

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