

**Status report on Implementation of Decisions  
taken at  
Presidential Task force for Economic Revival  
and Poverty Alleviation  
2020.10.02**

**Coastal Aquaculture Extension & Monitoring Unit – Eastern Province  
National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka  
Beach Road, Puthukudiyiruppu  
Batticaloa.**



## 1.0. Presidential Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation

**Table 1.0.** Progress Review Check List

Main Meeting on : Sea Food & Aquaculture

Date : 02.10.2020

Sub Sectors : Aquaculture

No.	Decision	Responsible Officer/ Institute	Date to be Completed the Decision	Progress	Sub activities need to be done to perform the decision	Responsible Officer/ Institute	Date to be completed the sub activity	Progress
3	Vested the land at Serendib Shrimp farm at Kokaddicholai, Batticaloa to NAQDA for shrimp farming according to the cabinet paper as the lease period of has been expired	GA	One month	A meeting has been arranged on 13/10/2020				
4	Acquired 1000ha land identify by NAQDA in Vakarei. Also, land release to investors should be done through BOI after obtaining relevant approvals by NAQDA	GA	One month	A meeting has been arranged on 13/10/2020	Forward the identified list of lands to Director General of Land Use Policy Planning Department which are to be acquired in order to speed up the acquiring process	Director (CAD) / NAQDA	05/10/2020	Forward the identified list of lands to Director General of Land Use Policy Planning Department

## 2.0 Status Report on the Implementation of Aquaculture Industrial park in Koralai Pattu North Divisional Secretariat of Batticaloa District

### 2.1. Background

Potential resource for Aquaculture industrial park was mapped as a Zonal plan via a comprehensive research with the collaboration of such stakeholders as National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Eastern University of Sri Lanka and District Secretariats of Eastern Province. Then identified potential aquatic resources as well as lands were planned in such a way to establish different aquaculture-systems by the Coastal Aquaculture Extension and Monitoring Unit of Eastern Province which is coming under National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA) by consulting with the existed Socio-Political structures for the implementation of mega project called Aquaculture Industrial zones where investors can carry out their investment-plans with the less formalities as one-stop shop. In the meantime, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development had declared the whole 1100ha of land as aquaculture industrial zone in Koralai Pattu North Divisional Secretariat Division of Batticaloa District via a Gazette notification which was published in 2017. Accordingly, NAQDA had taken several steps to implement this aquaculture park by facilitating and convening several discussions with various stakeholders since 2015. Though NAQDA had obtained approval at several forums, project has not yet been commenced due various socio-political barriers. Finally, this project was shifted to Mannar District in 2017 itself. However, this project has been approved in a discussion of Presidential Task Force on Economic Revival and Poverty alleviation held on 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2020.

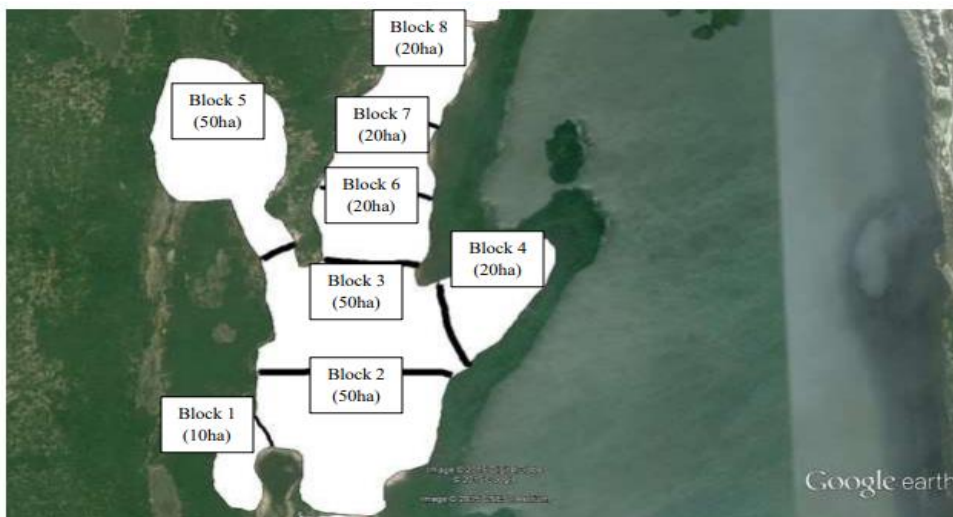
### 2.2. Identified sites for the establishment of Aquaculture Industrial park in Koralaipattu North DS Division



**Fig.1.** Proposed Aquaculture Industrial Park in Koralaipattu North DS Division, Batticaloa District



**Fig.2.** Zone A of Aquaculture Industrial Park for Shrimp farming

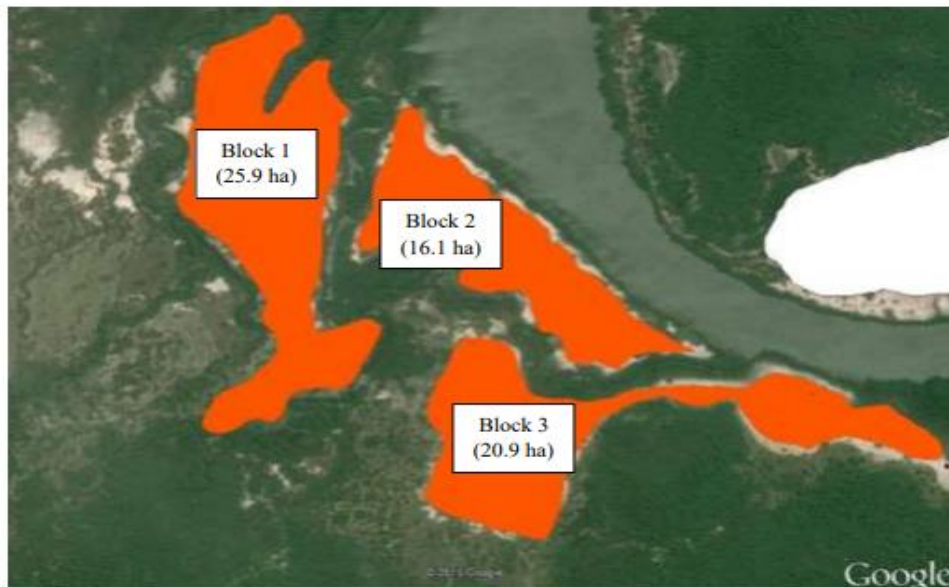


**Fig.3.** Zone B of Aquaculture Industrial Park for Shrimp farming



**Fig.4.** Zone C of Aquaculture Industrial Park for Shrimp farming

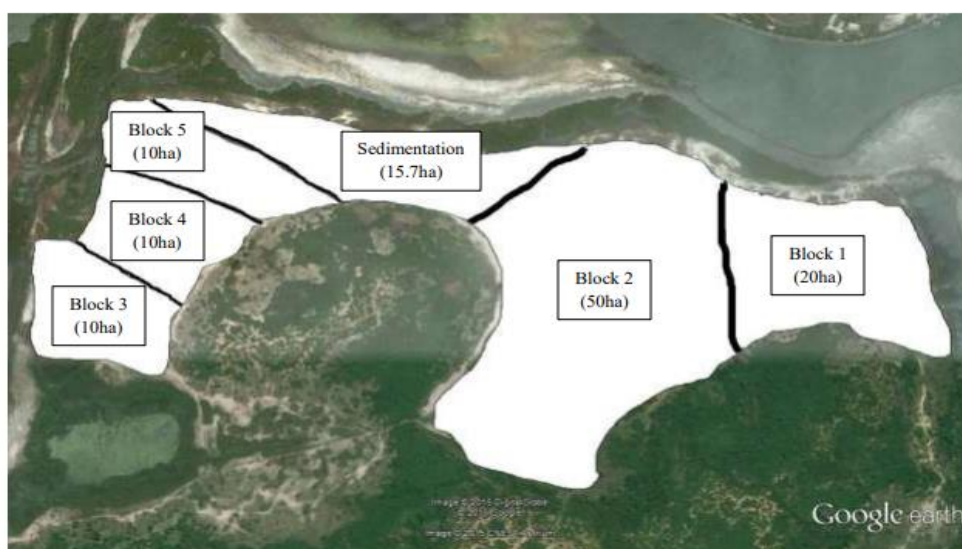




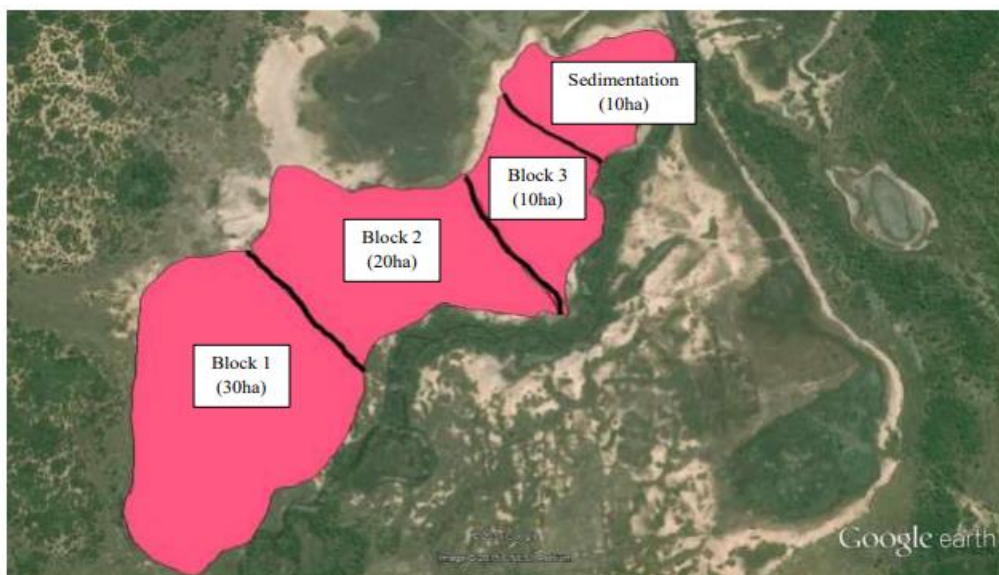
**Fig.5.** Zone D of Aquaculture Industrial Park for Fish farming



**Fig.6.** Zone E of Aquaculture Industrial Park for Shrimp farming



**Fig.7.** Zone F of Aquaculture Industrial Park for Shrimp farming



**Fig.8.** Zone G of Aquaculture Industrial Park for Crab farming

### **2.3. Actions taken for the implementation of Aquaculture industrial park**

1. Conducted preliminary discussions and orientations on Aquaculture Industrial park with the stakeholders under the chair of District Secretary of Batticaloa in 2015
2. Held stakeholders' consultative meetings at district level in 2015 & 2016
3. Political structures were given awareness on Aqua-park in 2015 & 2016
4. Conducted community consultations at divisional and district level
5. Convened preliminary meetings at district level, divisional level with the participation Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Development, Secretary to the line-ministry, Hon. Eastern Provincial Agriculture Minister, Chairman and Director General of NAQDA, Government Agent of Batticaloa, Divisional Secretary of particular division and other District and Divisional officers of other relevant public sector organizations in 2015 and 2016
6. Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources had sent a letter to the Divisional Secretary to demarcate 1000 acres of land as agreed upon by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Eastern Province as an initial phase
7. Completed the Conceptual design
8. Local politicians were taken for field demonstrations to existing Aquaculture systems in other parts of Sri Lanka especially to North Western Province
9. 80ha of land has been approved for crab farming under the name of "Crab city". But still land has not been released by Department of Forest though several meetings and field visits have been conducted in the past
10. Crab city matter was discussed again in meeting held on 13.10.2020 which was chaired by Government Agent (GA) of Batticaloa district, GA granted permission to commence with 120acres as initial stage (49 ha). According to the GA-Batticaloa, a letter has been sent to respective Divisional Secretary to coordinate the commencement of works.
11. Project of Aquaculture Industrial park has been approved in Presidential Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation which was held on 02.10.2020 And NAQDA prepared a activity plan to implement this project.

#### **2.4. Activities carried out for the establishment of Aquaculture industrial park.**

1. Convened a initial discussion on formulation of guidelines for allocation of land for aquaculture investments by the Government Agent of Batticaloa District in 2015
2. Convened a stakeholders' consultative meeting for the establishment of Aquaculture Industrial zone chaired by the Government Agent and District Secretary, Batticaloa District on 28.09.2015.
3. A proposal of Aquaculture industrial park was tabled for a discussion at District Land Users' Committee Meeting held on 05.10.2015 which was chaired by Government Agent/ District Secretary Batticaloa
4. A discussion was held with Hon. Chief Minister (Eastern Province), Government Agent/District Secretary Batticaloa and Director General, National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA) on 14.12.2015. And a copy of proposal was submitted to Hon. Chief Minister's Office of Eastern province
5. Preparation of conceptual plan for construction of Aquaculture Industrial was held on 08.03.2018 at Head Office, NAQDA
6. A field visit organized for community members and government officials on 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
7. Community consultative meeting was held at Divisional Secretariat, Koralaipattu North on 29.03.2016 with the participation of Hon. Parliamentarian, Director General (NAQDA), Additional Government Agent (Batticaloa District), University Lecturer (Eastern University, Sri Lanka) and relevant Government officials
8. NAQDA had convened the Pre-Bid meeting and filed visit to select the consultants for construction of infrastructure facilities on 04.04.2016
9. A stakeholders' consultative meeting chaired by the Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development with the participation of Hon. Parliament Members, Provincial Council members, Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Chairman (NAQDA), Government Agent (Batticaloa District) and Director General (NAQDA) on 20.05.2016.
10. An another community consultative meeting was chaired by the Secretary (Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development) on 25.07.2016 with the participation of Hon.Parliamentarians and Hon.Provincial council members of Eastern Province in Batticaloa District, Director General (NAQDA), other Government officials and community members
11. A Co-chairman of DCC, Hon.Parliamentarians of Batticaloa district, Hon.Provincial Fisheries Minister (Eastern Province), Hon.Provincial Council members (Eastern Province) were taken to show the status of shrimp farming activities in Puttalam district on 28.05.2016

## **2.5. Approval obtained for Aquaculture Industrial Park.**

1. Approved Rs.100 Million through budgetary speech at Parliament for year 2016
2. Project had been approved by the Department of National Planning on 14.09.2015
3. Land had been approved at Divisional Land Users' Committee meeting in 2015
4. Land had been approved at District Land Users' committee meeting held on 05.10.2015
5. Project had been approved at District Coordination Committee meeting held on 13.01.2016
6. Proposal was discussed in the table District Coordination Committee meeting held on 13.01.2016 and it had been approved
7. 1 000 acres had been approved to demarcate on a meeting held on 25.07.2016
8. An approval has been granted to acquire 1 000 ha of land by NAQDA in order to release the land to investors through Board of Investment (BOI) in a meeting of Presidential Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation which was held on 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

## **2.6. Submitted documents and letters related to Aquaculture Industrial Park**

1. A copy of proposal was had been submitted to Hon. Chief minister's Office of Eastern province in 2016
2. A letter written to the Governor of Eastern Province and copied to Chief Minister (Eastern Province) by the Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development on 17.02.2016.
3. Feasibility report and Zonal plan were submitted to the Government Agent, Batticaloa on 17.02.2016

## **2.7. Present status**

1. 112ha of land for Crab farming has been demarcated in Mankerni and Panichankerni by NAQDA with the help of Department of Surveys and it has been made boundary by using painted pegs and rest of the land is being kept without any use or management
2. Detailed design has been prepared for 80ha of land allocated for Crab farming under crab city III project and Scoping committee meeting and field visit for EIA have been finished by Central Environmental Authority
3. Central Environmental Authority has sought to give Terms of Reference (TOR) to grant approval for IEE (Initial Environmental Examination) for Crab city III
4. A delegation of Department of forest including Forest Conservators from its Head office had conducted field inspection 24.01.2020
5. Some institutions have taken steps to declare considerable portion of this area as a protective zone especially by Department of Wild life, Marine Environmental Protection Authority and Department forest while Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource had declared as an Aquaculture Industrial zone by a Gazette notification in 2017



### **3.0. Status Report on the Implementation of Cabinet Decision “Long term leasing of state land of 202.343 hectares for a period of 30 years to investors under the provision of land development ordinance for intensive fish Farming project”**

#### **3.1. Background**

Ex-Serendib farm is surrounded by villages namely Muthalaikudah West, Muthalaikudah South, Mahiladitheevu and Pandariyavely in the Manmunai South West Divisional Secretariat of Batticaloa District in Eastern province of Sri Lanka. The total extent of this land is 202.343 hectare and it was utilized for Brackish water Shrimp farming in commercial scale time to time by several investors since it was developed for Shrimp farming by Serendib Sea Food (Pvt) Ltd in 1983s. Additionally, almost all the portion of this land has basic shrimp farming structure such as Culture ponds, Outlet structures, Cannels, Water storage tank and Waste water treatment tanks. This farming land was used in commercial scale in recent past too by few investors with the concurrence of respective Divisional Secretary. Accordingly, it was authorized by NAQDA. However, it was abandoned again by the investor due to some land dispute. At this juncture, NAQDA has taken to re-start the commercial operations through the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development via a cabinet paper Since this potential land is underutilized. In this respect, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and NAQDA together have taken several steps at National level, District Level, Divisional Level and Community Level to implement this cabinet approval. Even though all the stakeholders have agreed this cabinet decision upon to implement very few politicians oppose to implement it. Recently, this matter was tabled in the Presidential Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation-main meeting on Seafood and Aquaculture under the sub-sector of Aquaculture which was held on 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2020. And then this issue was discussed in a stakeholders’ meeting which was chaired by Government Agent of Batticaloa District on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 with the participation of relevant Parliamentarians, Political structures, Officers and community members on

#### **3.2. Actions taken for the implementation of Cabinet Decision**

1. Preliminary discussion held with Government Agent Batticaloa District in year 2016
2. Cabinet approval for allocation of land for 30 years was given on 2017.11.21
3. Papers of Cabinet approval were handed to Government Agent Batticaloa District over by the Director General, National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka on 2018.02.14

4. A stakeholders' (Relevant Divisional Secretary, Additional Government Agent and Assistant District Secretary of Batticaloa District, NAQDA, Board of Investment) discussion on Cabinet approval was convened by the Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development on 2018.02.20
5. Cabinet approval and Conceptual Note were presented in the District Coordination committee held on 2018.02.26 by the Director (Coastal Aquaculture Development) and Assistant Director (Coastal Aquaculture Development - Eastern Province), National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka.
6. Awareness and Community consultative discussion was conducted for surrounding community members on 2018.03.26 as instruction given by the Co-Chairmen of District Coordination Committee, Batticaloa District in the DCC meeting
7. Surrounding community members of Ex- Serendib farm and representatives of relevant Divisional Secretariat were taken to same models which are being practiced in Batticaloa District and Puttalam District on the request of Community members, and Divisional Secretary during the community consultative discussion.
8. A Power point presentation was carried out in Divisional Coordination Committee meeting of Manmunai South West Divisional Secretariat by the Assistant Director (Coastal Aquaculture Development), Eastern province, National Aquaculture Development on 14.08.2018 with request of District Coordination Committee.
9. Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources and Rural Economy had requested relevant Divisional Secretary to process this matter for the approval of District Land Users' Committee meeting in writing (MFAR/SD/6/1/25 dated 2018.05.30)
10. A meeting was convened for Predeshiya sabah members of Manmunai South West by the Assistant Director (Coastal Aquaculture Development-Eastern Province) on 24.08.2018 in order to make aware of this project.
11. Senior Assistant Secretary (Development), Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development and Rural Economy had explained the suitability and importance of implementing this cabinet decision in the DCC meeting of Batticaloa District held on 22.10.2018 and he sought the approval of DCC meeting
12. It was granted permission as "for first stage of shrimp farming by the side of lagoon-shore and give preference to the people from that area" in the DCC meeting held on 25.02.2019.
13. A field visit was organized by NAQDA on 18.03.2019 as requested by Co-Chairmen of DCC, the relevant Divisional Secretary and the Chairman of Predeshiya sabha in order to get the proposed boundaries for the demarcation of land. However, a few community members were mobilized for a picketing by the predeshiya sabah members, Chairman and Parliamentarian who was opposing this project always same day itself. Then field visit was cancelled due to these objections.

14. A decision was taken in the main meeting on Seafood & Aquaculture of Presidential Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation which was held on 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2020.
15. An activity plan of implementation of decision has been submitted to the Government Agent of Batticaloa district on 08.10.2020
16. A presentation and discussion with stakeholders (State Minister, Parliamentarians, Chairman of Predesia Sabah, DG-NAQDA, Local head of Departments and Community members) was arranged to discuss about the implementation of decision

### **3.3. Actions to be taken**

1. Land should be demarcated
2. Approvals should be taken from Divisional and District Land Users' Planning meeting
3. Detailed design for aquaculture farming system is to be developed
4. Approvals of relevant departments should be obtained
5. Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment / Environmental study has to be carried out
6. Coordination with Board of Investment (BOI) for the implementation of the project
7. An investors' forum has to be convened

### **3.4. Present status of Land**

1. Land is being fenced and demarcated by encroachers
2. Land is kept without any management and use for any of production
3. Many of local investors and foreign investors have been trying to invest on Brackish water aquaculture at various scale of operations (Small, Medium and Large scales)
4. According the discussion with the Divisional Secretary (Manmunai South West) around 386acres of state land can be utilized without any issues for aquaculture purpose and rest of the land is being prosecuted under legal action as this portion has been encroached by person

### **3.5. Findings**

1. Majority of the community members have agreed with conditions to implement the cabinet decision
2. According to the views of agreed community, those who have encroached the land were opposing the implementation
3. Those parliamentarians who attended the meeting held on 13.10.2020 have agreed to initiate this work according to the decisions taken at this meeting
4. Though nearly 250 acres of this land was requested by Local community members for Aquaculture purpose no actions are taken by the respective Divisional Secretary for the allocation of land. And several investors are approaching District Secretary of Batticaloa District, respective Divisional Secretary and officials of NAQDA to get land from this abandoned Shrimp farm for Aquaculture purpose, but no solution has been given to them so far

5. Still some portion of community members are requesting to commence the aquaculture operations
6. Already developed lands with several culture ponds are being filled with rain water during the rainy period which may cause the breeding of dengue, Malaria or other communicable diseases
7. There are possibilities for illegal activities which may be carried out in this premises as it possessed with several physical facilities right now such illicit liquor distillation and other crimes
8. The political bodies which were opposing the project have come to compromization for the implementation after a discussion held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in District Secretariat, Batticaloa with the participation of Political structures, Social structures and Government officials.
9. Project has been approved at Divisional Land User's Committee meeting which was held on 09.11.2020