CHAPTER - III

STUDY AREA PROFILE

Thoothukudi District, also known as Tuticorin District is located along southeast coast of Tamil Nadu State, India. The district was formed through subdivision of Tirunelveli district in 1986 with Thoothukudi as the district headquarters. Thoothukudi has the second major port in Tamil Nadu and many industries have been located in and around Thoothukudi. Thoothukudi has recently been recognised as a Municipal Corporation.

Tuticorin Port contributes a lot to the economy of the district besides providing employment opportunities in the associated business firms. Tuticorin hosts industries such as SPIC, Sterlite, Tuticorin Alkaline Chemicals, DCW, Zirconium plant and numerous salt packing companies. Many coal based power plants are at various stages of commissioning. Thoothukudi, being located along the biodiverse Gulf of Mannar in Bay of Bengal, is also one of the major seafood processing and export hub next to Kochi in neighbouring State of Kerala.

Twenty two fish processing plants and two fish meal oil plants have been registered with Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). Besides, number of chilled fish exporters, ten dry fish exporters and three live fish exporters are operating in the district of Thoothukudi. The major fishery processing industries include Nila sea foods, Diamond sea foods, Theva sea foods etc.

Fisheries are playing a key role in the changing profile of Indian economic growth. Export of processed and frozen shrimp products is the backbone of seafood export trade in India. The industrial processing of shrimps after peeling generates large amount of wastes every year. A part of this waste is being used for animal feed
and maximum of this waste are simply discarded causing environmental nuisance leading to pollution of land and air. Generation of these fishery wastes in several tones is inevitable in such processing industries and is also a major issue for these industries. It will be wise to find out ways for safe disposal or value addition of these wastes to avoid hazardous disposal. Six locations, (Korampallam, SIPCOT, Pudur Pandiapuram, Therespuram and Krishnarajapuram) were chosen in this study for sampling as depicted in the map below (Fig.3.1).

Fig. 3.1 : Map showing shrimp shell waste dumping and sampling sites