The study entitled, “Training needs of Shrimp Farmers in Tamil Nadu” aims at bringing out the socio-personal, socio-economical and socio-psychological characteristics of shrimp farmers of Nagapattinam and Thanjavur districts of Tamil Nadu. The knowledge level of the respondents, their training requirements according to their farm holdings and in major subject matter areas preferred type of training, method of teaching, venue, duration, season, timing, size of the training group and preference of training personnel were studied. Problems encountered by the shrimp farmers and suggestions to overcome the same have been presented.

Keeping this in view the study was conducted in Nagapattinam and Thanjavur districts of Tamil Nadu. Purposive sampling procedure was applied to select 300 respondents from both the districts. The data were collected with a help of a structured interview and pre-tested schedule. Collected data were analysed by employing suitable statistical tools. The salient findings of the study are presented hereunder.

The shrimp farmers of both the districts differed significantly from each other with respect to certain characteristics, viz., social participation and training programmes attended. Their knowledge level was observed to be poor in areas of disease control, application of manures and fertilizers, water sampling techniques and testing of soil parameters.
Majorities of the shrimp farmers were found to have holdings less than 4 hectare. The shrimp farmers preferred training in disease management, water management, soil management, pond management, feed and feeds management and hatchery operations. Training needs were found to have significant relationship with personal attributes viz; education, social participation, mass media exposure, extension agency contact, economic motivation, risk orientation, innovativeness, scientific orientation, training attended and attitude towards training programme.

Relative contribution of socio-personal and the characteristics with expression of training needs indicated that high social participation, mass media exposure, extension agency contact, economic motivation, risk orientation and more training attended and attitude towards training programme contributed for expression of increased training needs.

The respondents of both districts gave top priority to peripatetic training. They preferred method demonstration as teaching method. The respondents indicated preference for undergoing training at field level itself. They opted for short term training courses not more than one week duration with a group size consisting of (11-15 farmers) and they preferred Scientists from Research Institutes to train them.

The implications of losses associated with common risks were identified and the constraints expressed by the farmers are focused under the heads of land, water, seeds, feeds, management, marketing, infrastructure, social problems, extension and miscellaneous. In addition to that the suggestions offered by the farmers to overcome the above constraints have been presented.
Based on the above results, the appropriate training is an essential and crucial factor for increasing the shrimp production. The Fisheries University and other institutions should also come forward to offer short-term training courses. There is an urgent need to train shrimp farmers in the major subject matters. Even though, some training programmes aimed at specialized disciplines, training on shrimp diseases is the need of the hour.