

Towards a sustainable management of mud crab (*Scylla serrata*) in Madagascar: the challenge of the development of crab aquaculture

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Mangrove provides important environmental and economic services to the coastal fishermen communities of Madagascar. However, since few years, they are faced to the decline of the related resources, especially the mud crab *Scylla serrata*. Up to now, the exploitation of the mud crab in Madagascar is limited to the collect from their natural habitats. The production start to decrease and collected crabs do not reach the legal exportable size. Corrective and preventive measures have been decided by the government: annual closure of the fishery, limit on the maximum size permitted and the obligation of the private operators have stabling ponds. Since 2014, some actors already practice the fattening crabs, which is the only form of crab aquaculture in Madagascar. But it still depends on the collect of crabs from the wild. Despite these measures, the problem persists and spreads over other ecosystems through overfishing and leads to scarcity of products. A sustainable solution exists: development of hatchery and mastering all the stages until growth. Larval rearing tests were carried out at IH.SM in 2016 and the results are promising thanks to financial support from ARES-CCD. The following steps are at present mastered thanks to the technical assistant from SEAFDEC / AQD, Philippines: Collecting/selection and management of broodstocks, larval production, mass production of phytoplankton and zooplankton for larval feeding. For the success of the next step, well-adapted infrastructures allowing each stage to be protected from all risks of contamination are necessary.