ORNAMENTAL FISH INDUSTRY

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Sri Lanka is a tropical country with rich biodiversity. The country's inland waterways are home to more than 95 species of freshwater habitats with 53 endemic species. The diversity of this fish fauna is influenced by the different drainage systems of the country leading to a certain pattern for the distribution of freshwater fish.

The potential of this fish source was recognized by certain individuals and institutions which led to the creation of an “ornamental fishery” in the country. It was started in the 1930s by a few small-scale importers, breeders and hobbyists. Sri Lanka's first public aquarium was built in 1952 in Colombo (Dehiwala Zoo), creating a starting point for the aquarium fish industry.

Many suppliers from rural areas tend to depend on the local market. Goldfish, Platy, Swordtail, Molly, Carps and Angels are some of the species that are in high demand in the local market. Buyers in the domestic market prefer to keep fish for display in private homes, public buildings, military bases, banks and various private and public institutions. But there are regular export companies in Sri Lanka. The main buyers for Sri Lanka's ornamental fish are the United States of America, Japan and the European Union.

At the ornamental fishery industry, they not use tap water, if use tap water well treat before using. "Mada pokunu’ were build prior to transfer fish to tanks. Feed requirement is comparatively lower than other livestock farming.

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