

Groundbreaking Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS): Integrating AI and Advanced Bio filtration for Land-Based Farming

*Dr. Rakhi Das

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Aquaculture, Sanjeev Agrawal Global Educational
University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

*Corresponding Author's email: rakhi.d@sageuniversity.edu.in

Culture of fishes is moving from open ponds, rivers and sea to controlled, land based services. As water, land and suitable farm areas become limited with disease infestation and climate change create the outdoor culture risky. To solve the problems, farmers to researchers are turning to recirculating aquaculture systems. In common RAS, water cleaned continuously and reused instead of being displaced. The advanced RAS consists of modern bio filtration combination of artificial intelligence keep the water more biologically safe and control the system smartly.

Definition of Recirculating Aquaculture System:

A Recirculating Aquaculture System is a tank based culture system where several treatment units comprise in a series for clean the waste water and after treatment it passes to the fish tanks again. Well maintained systems can recycle the majority of the water, so daily exchange of water is only a small portion then ponds or flow through systems required. The general components of RAS are:

- **Mechanical filtration:** Drum filters with settling units reduce wastage solid substances before they break down and pollute the water.
- **Bio filtration:** Beneficial microbes transform toxic ammonia and nitrite into low harmful toxic.
- **Aeration, oxygenation and degassing:** Supply the dissolve oxygen while excessive carbon dioxide is stripped out of water.
- **Disinfection:** Ultraviolet light utilized for limiting the disease causing organisms in the culture system.

Advanced Bio filtration

Fish release most of their excreta as ammonia form, which is toxic for a long period. In a RAS, nitrifying bacteria converted ammonia to nitrite and then to nitrate and biofilters is the centre where this function is conduct. Advanced design target to provide these beneficial microbes more surface area, steadier conditions and less maintenance. Key developments are summarized below:

- **Moving bed bio film reactors (MBBR):** Thousands of small food grade plastic carriers keep moving in water; hold a thin and active bio film. They protect clogging, provide a large surface area for their volume and effortless to scale up as production grows.
- **Fixed film and fluid based media filters:** Several filters such as trickling filters, bead filters and fluidised sand beds offer different trade -offs in cost, footprint and oxygen supply. So selection depends on culture species, stocking density and budget.

- **Denitrification units:** Low- oxygen reactors transform nitrate into harmless nitrogen gas. This type of units allow small portion of water exchange and deduct nutrient discharge from the culture sites.
- **Better understanding of the microbes:** Modern research search bacteria even identified some bacteria that can completely nitrification on their own; create new routes to more compact and effective biofilters.
- **Plant based treatment:** Various plants species are able to strip carbon and nitrate rich water act as nutrient for growth of vegetables, duckweed or other leafy plants in aquaponic units where waste product into a second harvest.

Relationship of AI with RAS

RAS without workable pumps can be stopping its function such as spike of ammonia and oxygen droppings within hours. In intensive farming systems, skilled technician checked the system manually and made repairs after a problem had occurred. AI creates a new insight from reacting to predicting. Utilization of sensors, underwater cameras and farm records generate large volumes of data and machine learning tools can find the patterns in them that people may miss. Important implications are:

- **Diagnose water quality:** AI generated models can learn feeding, temperature, fish stocking density, unit's ammonia, nitrite, oxygen and pH levels and aware the culturist before the optimum values reach into dangerous level.
- **Early detection of disease and stress level:** Underwater camera can recognize abnormal swimming; deduct feeding or mortality patterns, which support early action and fewer losses.
- **Automated model and digital controls:** An automated model of the farm can check what would happen if the feeding rate, flow or stocking density is changed before it done in culture units. Controllers can then just blowers, pumps and dosing automatically.
- **Energy and cost improvement:** Aeration, pumping and temperature control are initial costs of a RAS, and intelligent scheduling can deduct utilization of power without risking fish welfare.

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