

## **Nitrofurantoin in Prawns: A controversial trade relation between Bangladesh and the EU**

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### **Abstract**

Export economy has been interrupted in shrimp/prawn, the second largest earning source of Bangladesh due to detection of Nitrofurantoin in exported prawns to the EU countries. Around 100 consignments of frozen prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) were rejected at the EU borders between 2005 and 2009. Bangladesh exported shrimp and fish products worth US\$ 454.53 million in FY 2008-09 against US\$ 534.07 million in FY 2007-08. Shipments were dropped by 49.63% in FY 2009-10 compared to FY 2008-09. Price of frozen products fell down significantly during this period with livelihoods of peoples depending on shrimp/prawn industry were in jeopardy. Bangladesh imposed a voluntary ban on the export of freshwater prawns to the EU from May 2009 to January 2010 in order to detect the root cause of nitrofurantoin in prawns and facilitate trade relationship with EU. Two scientific studies proved that nitrofurantoin is naturally found in crustaceans and revealed that nitrofurantoin and other antibiotics are detected in the shell and head of shrimp while the EU authority tested the shrimps including the shell and meat. The new scientific insights could lead to a better image of Bangladeshi shrimps after all of the negative notion it had received due to the Rapid Alert System of the Community mainly based on a faulty protocol followed by a Brussels lab. This article provides how Bangladesh upholds its image breaking down the negative notion of presence of nitrofurantoin in prawns.