

DEVELOPMENT OF FEED SUPPLY FOR COMMERCIALY IMPORTANT SPECIES
IN THE MEKONG DELTA:
RESULTS AND EXPERIENCES OF A HUNGARIAN ODA PROJECT

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Feeding is a critical element of sustainable aquaculture development in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam. Feeding has a great influence both on the profitability of the production and on the environmental effects of the production systems. Taking into account economical and environmental criteria there has been a shift from the application of home made feeds towards the utilization of high quality formulated feeds. The commercial feeds are supplied from newly built industrial feed mills, but a part of the feed used in intensive aquaculture production is imported. Recognising the needs for high quality aquafeed for sustainable aquaculture production in Vietnam, the Hungarian government provided 400,000 USD support for the establishment of a feed mill in the frame of the Hungarian International Development Assistance Program (Hungarian acronym NEFE). The Hungarian NEFE project is a complex project aiming at the feed and seed supply of commercially important species (pangasius, *Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*; tilapia; and giant freshwater prawn, *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*), however the feed mill sub-project is the most important element of the Hungarian NEFE project having a total budget of 610,000 USD. The project is implemented through the collaboration of the Research Institute for Aquaculture No.2. in Ho Chi Minh City and the Research Institute for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Irrigation, Szarvas between 2004-2007. The feed mill has been built in Caibe town, Tien Giang Province at the Center for Aquaculture Development of the Mekong Delta of RIA-2. The feed mill can produce both compressed and extruded feed using modern machines and computer controlled system. The capacity of the extruding and pelleting lines is 0.5-0.8 tons/hour and 1.5-2.0 tons/hour, respectively. The feed mill is a semi-scale aquafeed production plant, which besides producing feed for RIA-2 and partner farms, provides good conditions for experiments, training and demonstration. The main goal of the experimental work is the development of feed formula using locally available cheap ingredients. RIA-2 and HAKI will continue the collaboration for the development of high quality and environment friendly feeds and feeding technologies and disseminate the information among farmers. The feed mill is also serving as a reference unit, which can be built in other locations, regions or countries.