Organic aquaculture in Hungary and Vietnam: Constraints and opportunities

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Organic aquaculture production in Europe

GENERAL
Organic farming is a dynamic agricultural sector in the EU
Organic farming on 3% of the EU utilised agricultural area
30% growth per year since 1998
Importance and growth is varying by regions/countries

AQUACULTURE
Total production is around 14,000 tonnes in 2004
European production is 56% of world organic aquaculture production
78% of organic aquaculture production is Atlantic salmon
UK organic market growth

Source: Dallimore, 2005
Some examples

Provence Aquaculture, France

Hortobágy Fish Farm, Hungary

Clare Island Seafarm, Ireland

Graig Farm, United Kingdom
Organic carp production in Europe

GERMANY
< 200 t

AUSTRIA
~ 150 t

HUNGARY
~ 700 t

(Source: IFOAM, FAO, EU)
## Organic fish production in ponds in Austria and Hungary, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Production pond area</th>
<th>Organic fish fishpond area</th>
<th>% of the total</th>
<th>Production</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>550 ha</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>150 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>4700 ha</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>~ 700 t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Organic carp products in Hungary
Summary of experiences

• Carps are ideal candidate species for organic fish farming
• It is relatively easy to covert existing carp farms into organic carp farms
• There is a need to develop ad harmonise standards
• Organic fish farming could be expanded in regions, where organic agriculture is developed
• Processing, market organisation and market communication are key issues
Confusions

- why some species like mussels and carps should be certified, because they are organic anyway (more organic than certified organic)?
- is it worth to pay more for organic, why?
- which certifying body we can trust in?
- if the product is not organic, does it mean that it has a lower quality?
New EU regulation

New proposal of the European Commission
„Improve clarity for consumers and farmers”

Consultations

12-13 December 2005, Brussels

New EU regulation

28 June 2007

Council regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products

Aquaculture is included!


EU results and experiences can contribute to the development of organic fish production in Vietnam
Organic farming of shrimp

- Conducted in Ca Mau province since 2000 (collaborated among former Ministry of Fisheries, SIPPO (Switzerland), Naturland and 184 enterprise).
- Based on integrated mangrove and shrimp farming system.
- Principle:
  - Low stocking density (<3 PL/m2)
  - No feeding, only fertilization
  - Mangrove forest area >50% total
  - No use of antibiotics and chemicals
  - Farmers must participate in environmental conservation (no mangrove destruction)
- Premium: 20%
- Certified by Naturland (yearly).
- Difficulties: certification process, separated processing, …
Organic farming of Catfish

- Pilot project in An Giang province since 2004 (3 farms) (collaborating between Binca Seafood – Germany and AFASCO An Giang) → expanding gradually
- Applying Naturland guidelines.
- Based on fence and pond culture systems
- Principles:
  - Low stocking density: 10 fingerling/m²
  - Feeding of organic feed (rice bran, soybean, fish meal,… pellets are imported from Israel!
  - Fingerlings are checked for antibiotic residues
  - No use of antibiotics and chemicals
  - Monitoring water quality monthly
- Demand will increase but small premium (30%) may not encourage more entrants!
Thank you for your attention

Just naturally!