



Regional e-Notes ~ Volume 11, Issue 2 ~ February 2019

Letter from the Director

Aloha!

Following the recent CTSA Board approval of the FY18 Plan of Work (and subsequent submission to the USDA), we are now turning our attention to this year's development cycle. To kick things off, my team and I are planning to hold our first adhoc committee meeting of the year to discuss strategic priority areas for FY19.



As we gather to discuss the critical issues that are facing farmers and the industry, I will encourage our group to sharply focus on how CTSA can leverage aquaculture funding to benefit the everyday lives of people throughout our region. Per our usual practice, I am also asking our valued stakeholders to provide your input on industry development in our region (please take a few moments to take the survey included in this month's issue).

There are many ways that aquaculture can meaningfully impact our island communities, one of the most obvious being increased food security and nutrition. Aquaculture can allow us to secure the sustainable supply of staple species and introduce new and healthy seafood options, such as seaweeds and fish high in beneficial fatty acids, which can play a role in improving health and wellness across the region. Development of the industry can also have significant economic impacts, especially when considering the ideal farming conditions of the Pacific Islands. A recent article in the Agriculture Economics 2019 issue titled "Does a "Blue Revolution" help the poor? Evidence from Bangladesh," indicated aquaculture contributed to a 10% reduction in poverty in Bangladesh. 10% of the population represents 1.8 million people who's lives, incomes, and access to healthy seafood were improved. My own experience working with USAID...[Read More](#)

We Want to Hear from You! Participate in our Quick Survey to Assess Priority Species & Areas for CTSA FY19 Funding

Would you like to have a say in the priority areas for CTSA funding? Here's your annual chance!

CTSA has created a survey to assess the most important priority areas and species for funding consideration during the upcoming FY19 development cycle.

We encourage our stakeholders take an active role in the direction of our program by participating in this short survey. The questions are based on the

Participate in the CTSA Development Process!

Take the FY19 Priority Areas Survey

priority areas included in last year's FY18 'Request for Pre-Proposals.'

The FY19 'Request for Proposals' will be prepared in the coming months and released in May. Stakeholders are encouraged to [complete the survey by March 31](#).

[Click here to take the survey](#)

Finding Local Solutions to National Problems; Perspectives on Aquaculture in Hawaii

In a beautiful island paradise like Hawaii, one might think that fresh seafood is plentiful in every corner market and restaurant. That all of the famous garlic shrimp and fish plate lunches feature seafood that was harvested locally that week or perhaps that same day. While there are certainly local seafood options available in the markets, the stark reality is that Hawaii imports over 90% of its food, and that includes seafood.



Aquaculture is a promising way to simultaneously increase food security and decrease the imports of seafood that the United States and its territories have come to rely on. The expansion of aquaculture production, in fact, has helped meet growing demand for edible seafood as capture fisheries output has leveled off. Globally, fish provides more than 3.1 billion people with almost 20 percent of their average per capita intake of animal protein, and 4.3 billion people with 15 percent of such protein. Just to maintain this level of per capita utilization, global aquaculture production will need to increase current output by roughly 48 million tons by 2050. Undoubtedly, aquaculture must expand its contribution to the world's food supply.

The U.S. aquaculture industry has grown steadily over the past decade with peak production of 607,570 tons in 2004. However, nationwide production in 2016 was 444,369 tons, a nearly 26.86 percent decrease from production in 2004. Meanwhile, the national seafood deficit skyrockets to new heights each year. Further development of U.S. aquaculture continues to grow in importance to the American economy. In his 2018 declaration of June as National Oceans Month, President Trump mentioned "harnessing the vast resources" of the EEZ in the context of aquaculture. He promised to create new opportunities for American products in the global marketplace, including through promotion of domestic aquaculture, and to "streamline regulations and administrative practices to promote economic growth, while protecting our marine environment for current and future generations."

Unfortunately, regulations are one of the most critical issues inhibiting the growth of aquaculture in Hawaii. A recent article highlighted U.S. regulations and imported seafood as some of the obstacles prospective producers face in the islands.

"The biggest obstacle is permission," stated Randy Cates, who has been attempting to get the necessary permits to anchor floating cages to grow moi in waters off of the Honolulu airport. "It's not financing, it's not high labor costs, it's not the health standards. I've been trying for five years, half a million dollars on the site and I still don't have permission to do it."

According to the [Hawaii News Now story](#), "the most significant barrier to new enterprises are choking state and federal regulations -- a bureaucratic structure that largely doesn't apply to foreign imports. That's despite safety concerns about those imports."

"Investigative TV, for example, found that up to 12 percent of foreign frozen seafood may be contaminated with banned antibiotics, chemical dyes, and salmonella. University of Hawaii professor and extension specialist Aurora Saulo said foreign seafood is often farmed in unlined

ponds and treated with antibiotics to prevent disease, carbon monoxide gas to hide quality and other chemicals."

Professor Saulo stressed that our industry can compete if our legislation and regulations require evidence on the safety of any imported seafood products. Asia is the leading continent for aquaculture production, responsible for 89 percent of the global aquaculture production of fish, crustaceans and mollusks, which totals 76.6 million metric tons.

The story also highlighted the production efforts of the Kauai Shrimp Company, which harvests around a million pounds of healthy local shrimp each year. Kauai Shrimp Marketing and Sales Director Mike Turner said the company is dedicated to "clean operations that produce tasty shrimp without any added chemicals, and following the rules, unlike a lot of the foreign competitors."

"We are under a lot of rules and regulations here that they don't have abroad and the guys cut corners, and when you taste the shrimp you taste the difference," Turner said.

Certainly, the taste of fresh island seafood is unique, and we need to do all we can to secure the supply of healthy, local seafood that has been a dietary staple for Pacific Islanders for centuries. For decades, CTSA has been supporting projects that help break through the bottlenecks and barriers inhibiting aquaculture development in the region. For example, nearly a decade of support for the ongoing Bivalves project helped 'cut the red tape' and make it legal to grow shellfish in Hawaiian waters once again. Hawaii's bivalve industry is now one of the more promising areas of aquaculture; not only is oyster farming helping to catalyze restoration of ancient Hawaiian fishponds and cultural traditions, but it's also having major impacts on west coast oyster farms. Due to increasing ocean acidification and other issues, most major west coast oyster operations now rely on seedstock from hatcheries located in Hawaii. CTSA is also supporting the establishment of a disease diagnostic lab at the University of Hawaii, which is offering critical disease pathology services to local producers. This is important work that helps local farmers, especially shrimp SPF broodstock producers, fulfill the regulations and requirements to sell their products.

In addition to supporting development through its projects, CTSA also gathers industry testimonies on the value and importance of aquaculture and submits them to U.S. Congress each year. CTSA will continue promoting aquaculture as a viable solution to several issues facing the Pacific Islands, from economic and food security to climate change mitigation, and will continue (and expand on) our work with the legislature on the local, regional and national levels to facilitate the growth of this important industry.

AquaClip: Fish Farming Takes on Crime in Papua New Guinea

In the rugged mountainous highlands of Papua New Guinea in the southwest Pacific Islands fish farming has transformed the lives of former prisoners and helped reduce notorious levels of crime along the highlands highway, the only main road which links the highly populated inland provinces with the east coast port of Lae.

Moxy, who completed his sentence at the Bihute Prison in Eastern Highlands Province ten years ago, has used skills learned during his time in gaol to set up a fish farming enterprise in his village, located 15 kilometres northwest of the Province's main town of Goroka. Today he is proudly known as 'Daddy Fish' in his community where he has regained self-esteem, social status and is sought after for his wisdom and knowledge.

"Whenever I feel down or I am tempted to do wrong, I sit by my fish ponds and look at what I achieved," he said.

Moxy is one of many inmates who have participated in the Fish for Prisons program, the result of a partnership between Papua New Guinea's National Fisheries Authority and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The initiative, begun in 2008, aims to

train and mentor prisoners in aquaculture practice so they are equipped for a new livelihood before they are released. But the training has also made ex-prisoners more disciplined, self-motivated, emotionally resilient and less likely to reoffend.

Aquaculture is also giving young people in rural areas, where unemployment is as high as 70 percent, the chance to acquire vocational skills, economic self-reliance and sense of achievement.

This has happened in the Eastern Highlands village of Hogu where a criminal band, locally known as a 'raskol gang', renowned for car jackings, extortion, robbery and an illegal marijuana racket, had turned the nearby section of highway into the infamously known 'Barola Raskol Hotspot.' It was a treacherous place for any motorist or traveller.

But that all changed when fish farmer training was conducted in the village three years ago, gaining the attention of the gang.

"They saw the training being held and came down to see what was going on in their territory. They became interested, were welcomed by the [training] team and eventually participated," Associate Professor Jes Sammut of the University of New South Wales' Centre for Ecosystem Science and the fisheries consultant in Papua New Guinea for the ACIAR told IPS.

The program covered all facets of practice, including husbandry, water quality management, building and maintaining fish ponds, producing low cost fish feed and the use of organic fertilisers with the aim of strengthening sustainable food security and household incomes.

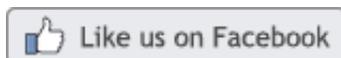
After finishing the course, the raskols, aged from 25-47 years, established 100 fish ponds, which now produce tilapia and carp and help to feed the village's population of more than 680 people. In so doing, they gained an honest livelihood and respect within the community, eventually destroying their marijuana crops and abandoning crime.

Micah Aranka, who works with fish farmers in Hogu, said that "they [the gang] worked hard on digging their ponds and digging canals to draw water to their ponds.....and by watching the fish in their ponds they have found peace."

In the most populous Pacific Island nation, aquaculture has emerged as an unlikely agent of social change, as well as a more secure food future.

Source: Inter Press Service News Agency / [Read Full Article](#)

www.ctsa.org



The Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) is one of five regional aquaculture centers in the United States established and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) under grants 2012-38500-19566, 2014-38500-22241, and 2016-38500-25751. The regional aquaculture centers integrate individual and institutional expertise and resources in support of commercial aquaculture development. CTSA was established in 1986 and is jointly administered by the Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University and the University of Hawaii.

Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture, 41-
202 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Waimanalo, HI 96795

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by mbrooks@ctsa.org in collaboration with



Try it free today