



Letter from the Director

Aloha and Happy Earth Day!

Today is the day that people across the globe reflect on the importance of our planet and pledge to take good care of its natural resources. Particularly in the Pacific Region, Earth Day & "Earth Month" provide many opportunities for communities to be reminded of the effects humans are having on the environment and ways to mitigate them in their own backyard. At the University of Hawaii "Waves of Change" conference on Climate Change earlier this month, I was reminded of the dire situation of the low-lying Pacific Islands, where contingency plans are to move people off-island as the sea level rises. It made me sad to think of islanders being forced to leave their lands because of a problem they had little or no part in creating. It also made me think about sustainable aquaculture's role in helping to solve the plethora of issues associated with Climate Change.

For over 25 years, CTSA has supported projects to enhance regional food security, generate local economic growth, and preserve and restore the environment. We practice and promote sustainable aquaculture that efficiently uses renewable natural resources and minimizes our carbon footprint. For example, aquaponics research and demonstration efforts are integrating agriculture and aquaculture to reduce the amount of excess nutrients in the environment and usage of fresh water, which is scarce in the remote Pacific Islands. In addition, sponsored research on sea cucumbers, oysters, giant clams, and rabbitfish has used the natural productivity of these important and overfished species to restock their wild populations.

CTSA's goal is to sustainably harness the renewable resources of these islands to create lasting positive impacts. If you have innovative ideas of how we can do so, please respond to our FY13 Request for Pre-Proposals (included below in this issue). We look forward to seeing the great ideas you bring to the table this year. Global-scale problems need solutions on the local-level, and they start with us!

Mahalo,

Cheng-Sheng Lee

Executive Director, CTSA

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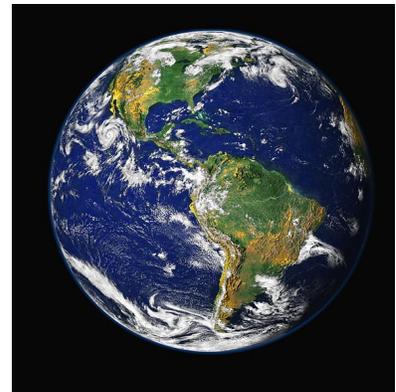
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CTSA FY2013 Request for Pre-Proposals

CENTER FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AQUACULTURE

The Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) requests pre-proposals for applied research and extension that addresses problems and opportunities in the regional aquaculture industry ([click here to view the full request](#)). In a region-wide survey, CTSA stakeholders identified strategic areas and species as the top aquaculture development priorities. Pre-proposals that target these strategic areas and priority species will receive highest preference. However, pre-proposals that do not fall under specific priority areas but address CTSA's mission will be considered in our development process. Our focus is on funding projects that will have immediate, positive impacts on the regional aquaculture industry.

CTSA's mission is to support aquaculture research, development, demonstration, and extension education in order to enhance viable and profitable aquaculture in the United States. CTSA is funded by an annual grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The CTSA region includes the following areas: American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau. CTSA strongly encourages collaboration between institutions and agencies in the region, as well as shared funding of large priority projects. Cultivating strong regional partnerships will catalyze the greatest changes in our industry.

CTSA will conduct a Pre-Proposal Webinar on **Tuesday, June 4**. Anyone planning to submit a pre-proposal is strongly urged to participate. Topics to be discussed include FY13 strategic areas and priorities, pre-proposal guidelines, CTSA's development process, and industry stakeholder expectations. CTSA will also answer questions from webinar participants. To register, please email mbrooks@ctsa.org.

CTSA Project Update: Assessing Hawaii's Aquaculture Farm and Industry Performance

Authors: Emiko Naomasa, Shawn Arita, Clyde Tamaru and PingSun Leung

Full article available on CTSA website at following link:

http://www.ctsa.org/index.php/news/assessment_of_hawaiis_aquaculture_industry_performance

Hawaii's aquaculture is a fast-growing diversified agricultural sector that has doubled over the past ten years. Today there is much interest in expanding the industry with policy makers viewing it as a potential source for job creation and enhancing state export earnings. However up until now, policy makers and industry participants have known very little about the economic performance and health of the industry. Such information is essential to help guide an effective strategy for growth.

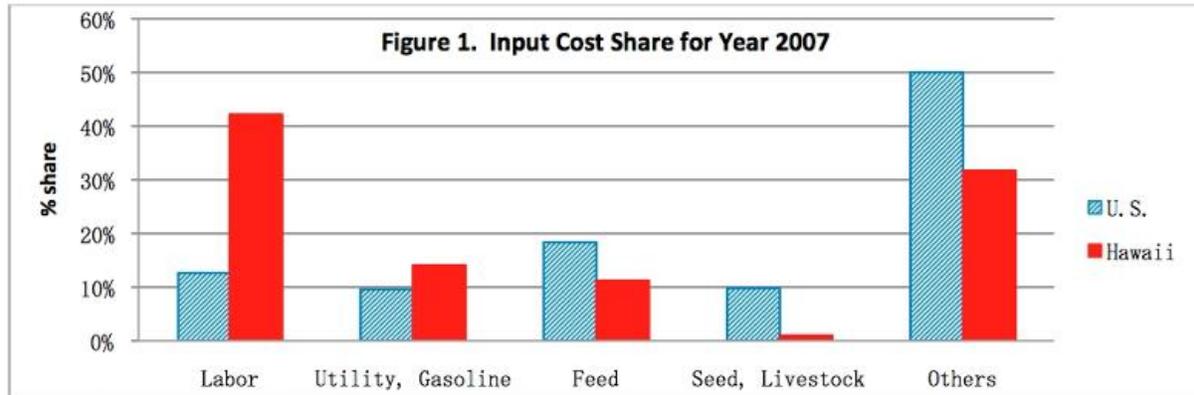
To assess the future outlook of Hawaii's aquaculture, an industry analysis was conducted. With access to U.S. Census of Agriculture farm-level data for the 1997, 2002, and 2007 cohort years, we evaluated the entire population of Hawaii aquaculture farms. In a thorough study, we analyzed the overall industry and sub-sector economic performance, input cost structure, trends over time, and the relative performance to the U.S. national level. This article summarizes the key findings of this study.

1. Labor is the Most Critical Production Expense

Labor was found to be the most critical input factor for production in Hawaii's aquaculture industry. For the average farm, labor accounts for 42% of total production costs. Including unpaid operator labor, total labor costs exceeds 58%. Hawaii's labor expenses were found to far exceed U.S. aquaculture labor expenses. The labor share of input costs was 3.5 times greater than that found on the U.S. mainland. This higher share is partially attributed to the considerably higher wage rate for aquaculture

workers in Hawaii and possibly due to the type of aquaculture practiced in Hawaii. Hawaii's aquaculture farms were also found to have more workers per dollar of capital.

Utility cost share were found to be much higher in Hawaii (14% in Hawaii and 9.5% in U.S.). Feed cost share, which was one of the major costs at the U.S. national level (18.5% share), only accounted for 11% of all expenditures in Hawaii. Land expenses (included in other expenses in Fig. 1) were found to be surprisingly small and comparable to U.S. mainland farms. Overall the findings indicate that in order to raise the profitability and competitiveness of the industry, improved access to labor resources is needed.



Source. Census yearbooks 2007

[Click here to read the rest of this article on the CTSA website.](#)

AquaAnnouncements

Registration Open for Upcoming 'Aquaponics Workshop' Co-Sponsored by CTSA

Hear from Hawaii's commercial aquaponic producers, urban garden producers, aquaponic services, and community groups about the challenges and opportunities of aquaponic operations in Hawaii. Hear from CTAHR's faculty on the latest developments in aquaponic research and extension being conducted by the College. Provide input as to the role aquaponics should play in increasing Hawaii's self-reliance in producing its own food. [Click here to register.](#)

Register NOW for FREE National Aquaculture Association Webinars: April 29 & 30

"U.S. Farm-Raised Seafood and a Health America:" learn more about the important health benefits of increased consumption of U.S. farm-raised seafood and share some tips about quick and easy healthy meals.

Date/Time: Monday, April 29 - 5pm EST. *Duration:* 60 minutes

Registration Link: <https://naa.ilinc.com/register/zsxprpy>

"Understanding Seafood Certification Programs:" learn more about certification programs and how to position your products in the marketplace.

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 30 - 11am EST. *Duration:* 60 minutes

Registration Link: <https://naa.ilinc.com/register/tpstscyy>

Dr. Sylvia Yuen to be Honored by YWCA

Dr. Sylvia Yuen, Special Assistant to the UH President and former CTSA Board Member, will be

honored at the 2013 YWCA of Oahu Leader Luncheon on June 19th. Dr. Yuen was selected as one of four honorees; the CEO of Kamehameha Schools, a local artist, and a public health educator and lawyer will also be honored. [Click here to register to attend the luncheon.](#) and join us in applauding Dr. Yuen!

New Industry Videos!

Learn more about "sustainability" and what NOAA is doing to ensure that our seafood is caught and farmed responsibly with consideration for the health of a species, the environment, and the livelihoods of the people that depend on them: http://www.fishwatch.gov/features/fishwatch_video.html

Learn more about the Oceanic Institute Finfish Department research on marine ornamentals (including the CTSA sponsored "Yellow Tang" project)

<http://www.khon2.com/2013/04/11/small-fish-could-make-big-impact-in-marine-conservation/>

Learn about the affect of fishing competition in Hawaii and how it is creating an opportunity for aquaculture

<http://www.kitv.com/news/hawaii/Could-fishing-competition-affect-industry-in-Hawaii/-/8905354/19540726/-/7plyhcz/-/index.html>

Reports on Feasibility of Crop Insurance for Various Aquaculture Sectors

You can now access the three aquaculture Risk Management Reports in addition to an evaluation report on a cultivated clam pilot program. These reports provide some insights on the challenges and issues associated with federal crop insurance and aquaculture.

Click the following links to read the Risk Management Reports:

* [Feasibility Research Report for Insuring Aquaculture Bivalve Species](#)

* [Feasibility of Crop Insurance for Freshwater Aquaculture](#)

* [Feasibility of Crop Insurance for Saltwater Aquaculture](#)

* [Cultivated Clam Pilot Evaluation Final Report](#)

Pacific Islands Spotlight: SPC Article Highlights CTSA Project to Establish Aquaculture of Coral Grouper in Guam



SEAFDEC researcher instructs CTSA-funded P.I. Dr. Hui Gong on health examination of coral grouper

Grouper is a high value species that is vulnerable to extinction. CTSA, SPC, and other agencies are supporting work to restore a coral grouper brood stock population and establish a marine finfish hatchery that will focus on the species.

Coralgroupers are among the most sought after and valuable food fish of the coral reef habitat worldwide. They are some of the highest priced fish in the Live Food Fish markets in Hong Kong, where they are imported from across vast regions of Asia and Oceania. As such, many are listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, including the two target species for this project. They are suffering from over fishing on Guam to the point where their natural recruitment may be threatened, and there is interest to restore the natural stocks of these two species. Furthermore, the aquaculture industry of Guam has a strong desire to develop a local, high-end product that can be marketed as a live, in-restaurant product to the tourist trade.

[Click here to read the full article from SPC.](#)

AquaClin: Mexico Stops All Shrimp Imports from EMS Countries

Aquaculture: Mexico Stops All Shrimp Imports from EMS Countries

Source: *Business Times (Vietnam)*. *Mexico Stops Vietnamese Shrimp Imports*. April 21, 2012.

On April 18, 2013, to protect its shrimp farming industry, the Mexican Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) decided to stop importing all product forms of shrimp from China, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam-the four countries affected by the early mortality syndrome (EMS) disease.

SAGARPA also asked the National Food Hygiene and Safety Administration to keep a close watch on the shrimp imports from non-EMS countries. It said that the domestic shrimp farming industry is able to meet the local consumer demand for shrimp without increasing imports from other countries.

Mexico has nearly 1,400 shrimp farms covering a total area of more than 71,000 hectares. In 2012, its farms harvested nearly 100,000 metric tons of shrimp, mostly for domestic use, while importing nine tons from the EMS countries.

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 2007-38500-18471, 2008-38500-19435, and 2010-38500-20948. 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 and the University of Hawaii.

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