



Letter from the Director

Aloha,

Yesterday, CTSA held its annual Board of Directors (BOD) meeting on the UH Manoa campus. I am happy to report that all of our Board members were able to attend this year's meeting, including the newest appointee from the State of Hawai'i, Mr. Morris M. Atta, who is the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. We welcome Mr. Atta to our program! In addition to reviewing recently completed and ongoing CTSA projects, the Directors discussed and voted on the FY19 Plan of Work at the meeting. Per our standard procedure, CTSA will now forward the Board-approved Plan of Work, comprised of four proposals, to NIFA for final approval.



Among the many topics discussed at the meeting, a serious focal point was one of the most critical issues facing aquaculture development in the CTSA region: how can we combine our efforts to advance both aquaculture research **and** the commercialization of the industry in the Pacific Islands? Our Board expressed a desire to assess and consider how the results from each CTSA project --especially those that are not solving an identified problem in an existing industry-- are or will be applicable to industry development. Multiple approaches were shared at the meeting, and I look forward to implementing those suggestions. A key to future success will be the employment of several new extension agents in the region, which our Board discussed at length.

During the five-hour meeting, we also touched on the subject cost-effective feeds production. Our program has supported several projects in recent years to catalog, analyze, and utilize local ingredients in aquatic feed formulations. It turns out that we have many viable, high quality ingredients, and our researchers are developing innovative ways to create and use them. The valuable information obtained through these projects has yet to be applied in actual feed production. Without any major feed manufacturing operations in Hawai'i, the question remains: is it truly feasible and sustainable to produce feeds on a commercial scale locally, and if not, what is the value of continuing local feeds research? We must determine if feed development will remain one of the top industry priorities moving forward and if so, how we will actively work together to solve the problem. These questions are important considerations as we move forward to our next development cycle.

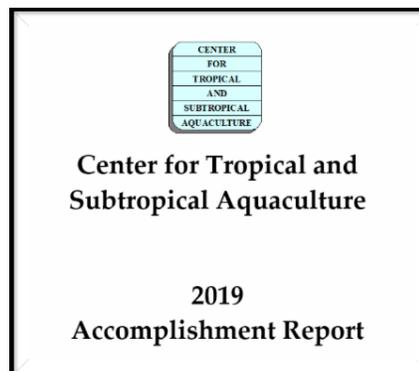
Now that our FY19 Plan of Work is moving to its final stage of approval, our attention will shift to developing the FY20 Plan of Work. I strongly encourage you to send us your input and suggestions on priority areas for funding - this is the best way we can learn about the most pressing needs of our industry. If you are a regular reader of our newsletter, you know I am constantly discussing the importance of teamwork to sustainably drive...[Read More](#)

CTSA 2019 Annual Progress Report

Summaries Now Available for Download

As part of our reporting requirements, CTSA must submit a comprehensive Annual Accomplishment Report to the USDA. This 100+ page report features full progress reports of ongoing CTSA-supported projects, as well as final reports of projects that were completed during the calendar year.

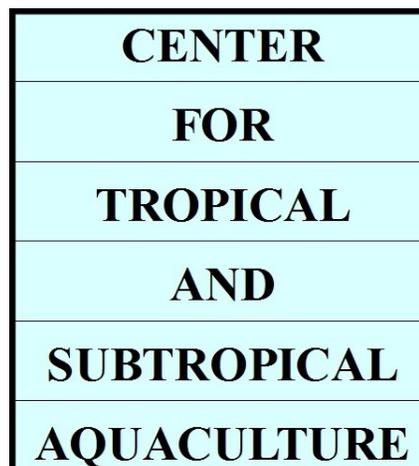
In an effort to consolidate information for our stakeholders, CTSA has prepared a 2-page summary of each project that was active during 2019. Each summary provides a brief description of the project, as well as the anticipated benefits, impacts, and current progress of the work being done. [Click here to view and/or download the summaries on the CTSA website.](#)



CTSA FY2020 Priority Development

During this week's Board meeting, the topic of priority development was addressed. The CTSA Board of Directors is responsible for putting their stamp of approval on our annual Plans of Work, and want to ensure that in doing so, we are considering and addressing the most pressing issues and promising opportunities in our regional aquaculture industry.

In an effort to get the most complete picture of the needs and priorities of our regional aquaculture industry, we are calling for your assistance and input. Our next issue of e-Notes will include a survey to gather input on priority species and areas of focus. In the meantime, please email Meredith Brooks at mbrooks@ctsa.org with any suggestions. We will release the FY2020 Request for Pre-Proposals in May 2020, and will be developing the priority areas until that time with input from our Industry Advisory Council, Technical Committee, Board of Directors, and stakeholders like you!



Aloha to Hawai'i Aquaculture Industry Pioneer Syd Kraul

Last month, the aquaculture industry lost one of its major contributors and long-time supporters, Sydney Kraul.

Syd, as he was known to friends, was an aquaculture researcher and owner of Pacific Planktonics, as well as an active member of the World Aquaculture Society and a US Navy veteran. During his decades of service in the aquaculture industry he worked with many important species, including mahi mahi, mullet, bigeye tuna and others, and was instrumental in research on *Euterpina* sp. copepod.



"From the time I first met Syd in the early 1980's, when he was concentrating on developing early life feed for marine finfish species, I have always been impressed by his dedication to aquaculture," shared Dr. Cheng-Sheng Lee. "He had a 'green thumb' and was able to naturally navigate complex systems for the benefit of our entire industry. Even after undergoing surgery

last year, he returned to work on his farm immediately without skipping a beat, as evident in this photo I took of him and his wife a mere month postop. He is an industry pioneer who will be dearly missed."

Syd passed away peacefully and under the loving care of his wife Diane in Kona, Hawai'i. We send our condolences to his family and friends, and our colleagues in the aquaculture industry who are mourning his loss.

AquaClip - An Ocean of Possibility: CTSA Director Cheng-Sheng Lee Discusses Aquaculture Obstacles and Opportunities with Aquafeed.com Magazine

Cheng-Sheng Lee, the executive director of the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture, was recently interviewed by Aquafeed Magazine about the status of aquaculture in Hawai'i and the Pacific. He has long worked throughout the region with industry stakeholders and researchers to identify and provide solutions for challenges to sustainable aquaculture.

An Ocean of Possibility

Aquaculture center director discusses obstacles and opportunities



He received his MS degree at the Institute of Oceanography at the National Taiwan University and his PhD from the University of Tokyo. After 30 years in research, he became the CTSA's executive director. One of five Regional Aquaculture Centers under the USDA, it administers a region comprised of Hawai'i and the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Its main administrative office is housed in CTAHR.

All five regional aquaculture centers share the same mission to support research, development, demonstration, and Extension education to enhance viable and profitable U.S. aquaculture, with industry stakeholders determining research priorities for each year.

As Cheng-Sheng explains, the inhabitants of the CTSA region all live by the ocean, and the ocean is part of their life. Subsistence fishing provides an important source of protein to its inhabitants. However, the yield from near-shore fisheries has declined in recent years. Therefore, Pacific island countries have a strong interest in aquaculture development to secure seafood supplies. The islands of the Pacific are still the least developed region worldwide in terms of aquaculture, yet this region enjoys superior natural resources for fish farming, such as pristine water, year-round warm weather, and isolated conditions for disease prevention, so there is much opportunity.

In the interview, Cheng Sheng explains that the availability of affordable feed is to be a common concern for aquaculture producers and what the CTSA is doing to address that. He discusses the production of high-value products such as SPF shrimp broodstock, spirulina algae, and amberjack. He also discusses how traditional Hawaiian cultural practices, such as maintaining fishponds, can teach modern-day aquaculture producers important lessons and skills.

Cheng Sheng ends the interview by warning, "To make commercial farming possible, besides technology development, capacity building, practitioners, and investors, we need community and government support. Partnership is the key to success in this endeavor. A successful aquaculture operation requires all building blocks to be in place at the same time to complete our ultimate task to increase seafood production. If we do not take action soon, the building blocks we establish will fade away with time."

Source: CTAHR News / [Read Article in Aquafeed.com Magazine, Volume 12, Issue 1](#)

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 2014-38500-22241, 2016-38500-25751 and 2018-38500-28886. 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

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