Regional e-Notes ~ October 2013 Vol 5, Issue 10

Letter from the Director

Aloha and Happy Halloween,

I would like to share with you something that I find more frightening than a black cat on Halloween!

Hawaii loves to eat seafood. In fact, our average per-person consumption rate is about 2.5 times higher than on the U.S. mainland. Considering this statistic, it is easy to assume that Hawaii residents have access to fresh island fish at any given time. However (and here's the scary part), most fish commercially landed in Hawaiian waters are exported, and the majority of the seafood we eat locally is imported from other countries. A large portion of that imported seafood comes from aquaculture farms in Asia.

The booming aquaculture industries throughout Asia have created significant economic benefits, and as more local people are able to afford aquaculture products, available exports from these countries may decrease. What will people who rely on that seafood do then? Not only are we missing out on opportunities for huge economic rewards in our own country, but we are putting our food security in someone else's hands.

We can start making changes now to become more self reliant. Our government and our citizens need to support sustainable aquaculture development throughout the U.S., and especially in the Pacific Islands, where our food security is incredibly vulnerable. I encourage you to share your ideas with us on how we can work together to make the most of the incredible potential we have here in our region.

Mahalo,

Cheng-Sheng Lee
Executive Director, CTSA

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Quick Links

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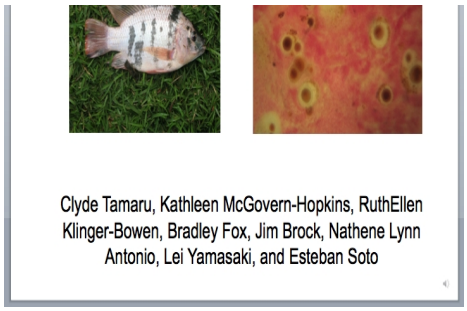
CTSA Progress Reports to the Public

Each year for several years, CTSA held a Progress Report to the Public meeting on the island of Oahu. At this annual event, Principle Investigators presented findings from their recently completed CTSA projects to other researchers, farmers, and industry stakeholders. In an effort to increase accessibility to the valuable information contained in these presentations, we decided in 2011 to post them on the CTSA website in lieu of an in-person meeting. We received



positive results from this change in format, with over 1,000 collective views and downloads, and we are hopeful that this format will continue to allow us to reach more of our constituents across the Pacific.

Click here to visit the 'Videos' page of our website, where you can access the presentations for projects completed between June 2012 and August 2013. The narrated presentations have been converted to YouTube videos for your viewing pleasure. *Please note: several of the presentations for this year have been experiencing technical issues, but we are working to resolve them and expect to have the correct versions uploaded onto our site shortly. Please visit this link again next week.*

We hope you find the information contained in these presentations useful. If you have any questions about a specific project or comments and suggestions for our information dissemination efforts, please contact mbrooks@ctsa.org.

Attention Farmers: Do you know about SBIR grants? Valuable Information Presented at recent conference in Hawaii

Last week, the 13th Biennial Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Conference and Pathway to Commercialization took place at the Hawaii Convention Center in Waikiki.

SBIR/STTR
SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH
SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Conference attendees were given a lot of valuable information related to applying for funding from the program, which awards grants to farmers and other small aquaculture and agriculture businesses. Here is some of the most pertinent advice shared at the event:

- **Failure is a part of the grant process**! The average annual success rate for SBIR applicants is 14%, and the average applicant will apply a few times before they are awarded a grant. The key is to not give up.
- **Talk to your customers!** You never know what ideas a good conversation may lead to.
- **Build up your network!** SBIR is all about leveraging resources. The more dots you can connect to make a project successful, the more likely you are to receive an award.
- **Talk to researchers!** Although it is not a requirement of the program, SBIR likes to support small businesses working together with researchers. Get to know the researchers in fields of study relevant to your business. You can contact CTSA if you would like some help doing so.

This year's conference was organized by High Technology Development Corporation - INNOVATE Hawaii. In addition to learning about the SBIR/STTR application process, attendees were also given the opportunity to network with local successful SBIR companies and commercialization resources, and meet one-on-one with Federal Funding Managers from Washington D.C.

The SBIR/STTR program was not created to fund large research efforts at universities and institutions. It exists to support small businesses and their innovative ideas to improve technology that is important in their respective industries. CTSA had high hopes that small businesses, including local farms, would take advantage of this chance to learn more about the program and tips to create a successful application. Unfortunately, it appeared that only a small amount of producers were in attendance.

Farmers are the backbone of the aquaculture industry, and thus are often more aware of technological improvements that have potential to make farming easier. If you or a farmer you know have an innovative idea to improve farming techniques, we urge you to look into the SBIR/STTR program to see if your project would be appropriate for consideration.

Another way to get involved in SBIR may be through leveraging CTSA research. Our program has funded many projects over the years that can potentially serve as good foundations for creative SBIR applications. You just have to look and start the conversation! Our website www.ctsa.org has resources for farmers, and also links to our projects and results. Please share this newsletter with any farmers you know who may be

interested in pursuing funding opportunities. Also, keep an eye out for next year's conference announcement in Regional e-Notes.

AquaClip ~ Ahi Aquaculture in Hawaii

Aquaculture Ahi: The Holy Grail of Fish Farming
By Robert Duerr, HawaiiBusiness. October 2013

Syd Kraul is in a contest with huge stakes and many well-funded competitors around the world. The goal is the first successfully farm-raised ahi, which would win both acclaim and millions of dollars from sushi chefs.

Ahi, also known as yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna, have suffered from overfishing and are becoming harder and harder to catch in the wild. That's why farm-raised ahi are so coveted, but the prize has proved elusive. Others are trying and Kraul has worked on the project himself since 2005.

"Replacing or supplementing wild catch with hatchery-raised tuna makes sense, but this is technically difficult with current technology," says Kraul, who has 35 fish-hatchery tanks on a half-acre of land leased at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii at Keahole Point in Kona.

"We have made progress in the capture and spawning of tuna to provide eggs for culture. ... The major obstacle to successful hatchery production now is survival of young tuna larvae."

Tuna farming has been tried elsewhere since the 1970s. It took Japan's Kinki University 32 years and $50 million to successfully artificially inseminate and farm-raise a type of bluefin tuna that is called Kendai tuna. Today, Kendai remains a rare and expensive treat for sushi lovers, and is especially favored because it contains less mercury than wild-caught bluefin tuna.

Click here to read the rest of the article.

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 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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