



### Aquaculture Asia

is an autonomous publication that gives people in developing countries a voice. The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors and do not represent the policies or position of NACA

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An intergovernmental organization that promotes rural development through sustainable aquaculture. NACA seeks to improve rural income, increase food production and foreign exchange earnings and to diversify farm production. The ultimate beneficiaries of NACA activities are farmers and rural communities.

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# AQUACULTURE ASIA

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## From the Editor's desk

### Collapse of WTO talks nothing to celebrate

Talks aimed at reforming global trade in agricultural products collapsed on 14 September in Cancun, Mexico. As expected, one of the main sticking points was the issue of agricultural subsidies and tariffs. As discussed in this column previously, these are mainly imposed by developed nations to protect their domestic industries from foreign competition – which are mainly developing nations.

A key difference in Cancun over previous talks was that developing nations banded together much more strongly than they have in the past to lobby for agricultural reform, and to oppose four new proposals about foreign investment and competition added to the agenda primarily by the US and European interests.

The collapse of talks in Cancun is a blow to the prospects of developing a global trade treaty by the end of 2004, set at a meeting two years ago in Doha. Many 'advocacy' groups celebrated the collapse as a 'victory' for developing countries. Greater solidarity among proponents of agricultural reform is a welcome development, but the collapse of the Cancun WTO talk is in no way beneficial to developing countries.

Global trade is not bad. The economic and social benefits are well documented. The real problem is that the global trading system as it exists today is not fair. It is heavily biased towards rich countries - which continue to prop up inefficient agricultural sectors with heavy subsidies (forcing their consumers to pay more tax for the privilege of buying more expensive products) while fending off imported products with quotas and tariffs.

The outcome of the failed negotiations at Cancun is that this status quo has been preserved, and so the global trading system will continue to favour rich nations. The collapse of the Cancun talks is a lost opportunity for both developed and developing countries; it's not a win for anyone. We need agricultural reform, let's hope that the negotiations are more successful next time.

On another trade related issue, if you are the owner, operator or agent in charge of a facility that manufactures, processes, packs or holds food for human or animal consumption in the US you must register your facility with the US Food and Drug Administration by 12 December 2003. This is a new requirement under the US *Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act* of 2002. The reason? To help the FDA protect the US food supply against actual or threatened terrorism acts and other food-related emergencies. If you don't register your facility then your exported product may be detained on arrival.

You can register through the website <http://www.fda.gov/furls> from 16 October onwards. You will also have to notify the USFDA prior to the arrival of your products (the timing depends on the mode of transport). Further information is available from <http://www.fda.gov/oc/bioterrorism/bioact.html>.

*Simon Wilkinson*

# AQUACULTURE ASIA

## In this issue

### Sustainable aquaculture

Ornamental fish farming – successful small scale aqua business in India 14  
*Abalika Ghosh, B. K. Mahapatra and N.C. Datta*



Page 5

Genes and Fish: Tilapia - a species for Indian aquaculture? 22  
*Graham Mair*

Peter Edwards writes on rural aquaculture: Peri-urban food production in Southeast Asia 38

Shrimp farming practices and its socio-economic consequences in East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, India - a case study 48  
*M.Kumaran, P.Ravichandran, B.P.Gupta and A.Nagavel*



Page 7

### Research and Farming Techniques

Breeding technique of Malaysian golden arowana, *Scleropages formosus* in concrete tanks 5  
*Mohamad Zaini Suleiman*

Captive breeding of Peacock eel, *Macrogathus aculeatus* 17  
*S.K.Das and N. Kalita*

Farmers as Scientists: Substrate based aquaculture systems 24  
*MC Nandeesh*



Page 14

### Aquatic Animal Health

Extension in shrimp health management: experiences from an MPEDA/NACA program in Andhra Pradesh, India 7  
*PA Padiyar, MJ Phillips, M Primphon, CV Mohan, G Ravi Babu, ABCH Mohan, BV Bhat, VS Rao, GN Murthy and P Chanratchakool*

The status and treatment of serious diseases of freshwater prawns and crabs in China 19  
*Yang Xianle and Huang Yanping*

Advice on Aquatic Animal Health Care 40  
*Pornlerd Chanratchakool*



Page 24

### Marine Finfish Section

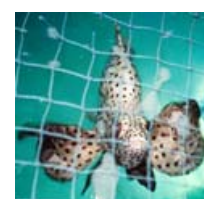
Improvement of larval rearing technique for humpback grouper, *Cromileptes altivelis* 34  
*Ketut Sugama, Suko Ismi, Shogo. Kawahara and Mike Rimmer*

### What's new in Aquaculture

News 43

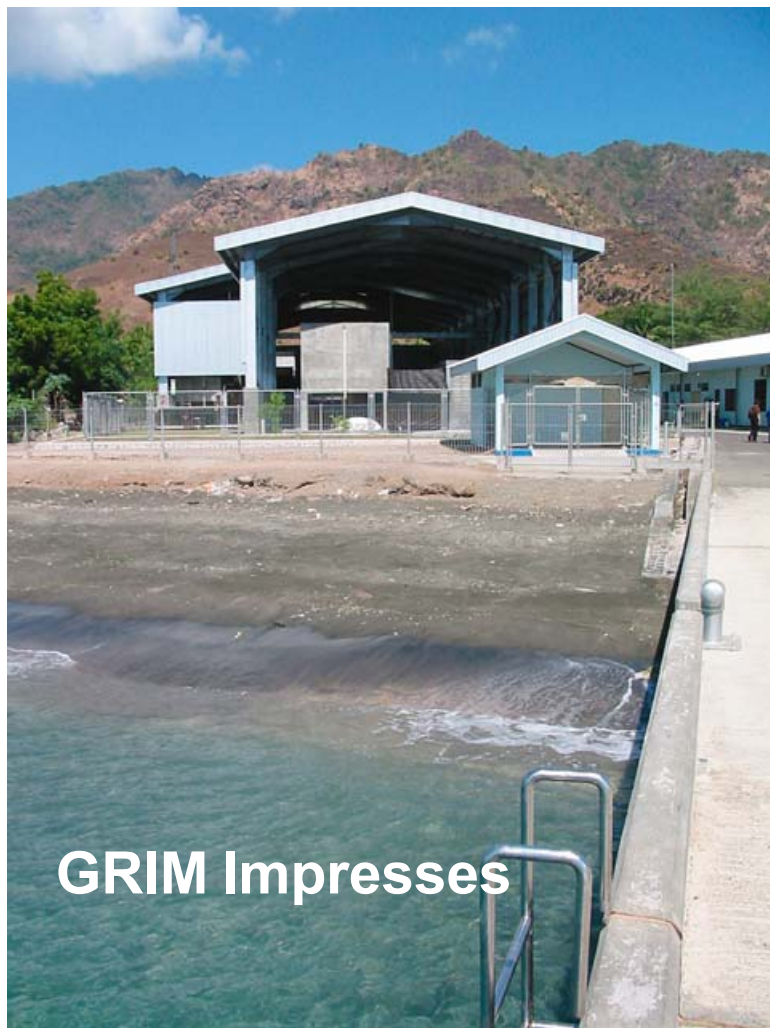
Aquaculture Calendar 53

What's New on the Web 55



Page 28

# Notes from the Publisher



The new tuna hatchery at the Gondol Research Institute of Mariculture

We thank the Government of Indonesia for hosting Seventh Meeting of NACA's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). It afforded the more than 60 participants, 40 of them from outside Indonesia, a close look at the progress that Indonesian researchers have made in mariculture. TAC 7 met in Denpasar for 2 days and motored to the northern side of the island for a study tour (and a consultation on NACA/Secretariat of the Pacific Community on cooperation in aquaculture development). The delegates toured the facilities of the Gondol Research Institute for Mariculture, which has successfully bred the humpback grouper *Cromileptes altivelis* and the Tiger grouper, *Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*, and which is producing seeds of these species for distribution to farmers in

Bali and other parts of Indonesia, and even export. Local hatcheries that purchase fertilized eggs from the Centre and hatch and nurse them for grow-out by other farms are doing a thriving business. This model of a central hatchery producing fertilized eggs for smaller backyard hatcheries to hatch and nurture for eventual distribution to local farmers has proven to be a successful integrative scheme in Indonesia. (The Philippines has recently begun adopting this model for milkfish). There are 70 grouper hatcheries throughout Indonesia 52 of which are small backyard operations, and 2000 milkfish hatcheries, of which 1800 are backyard scale. (A socio-economic study on small scale marine fish hatcheries and nurseries in Bali conducted by a team of NACA,



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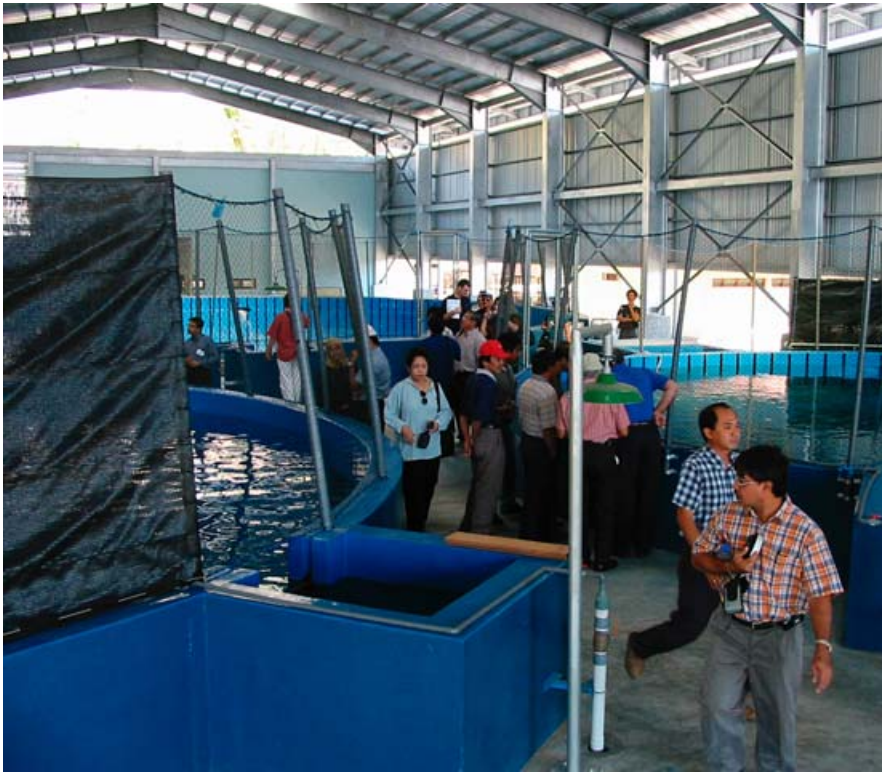
SEAFDEC AQD, and Australian researchers under the Asia-Pacific Marine Finfish R and D Network with support from APEC, is available for download from [www.enaca.org/grouper](http://www.enaca.org/grouper)).

The Centre has trained local farmers in hatchery and culture techniques of milkfish, grouper and snapper. Their experience and expertise have been extended to the region through a training program in collaboration with NACA, ACIAR and JICA. Other techniques being taught to local farmers and technicians are live food production, fish disease diagnosis and control. Other species under research and development in the Centre are swimming crabs (*Portunus pelagicus*), shrimp (*P. monodon*), red snapper (*Lutjanus johnii*), milkfish (*Chanos chanos*), artemia and very recently yellowfin tuna. A modern hatchery facility is the latest addition to the centre's impressive facilities, courtesy of a Japanese assistance. Research on fish and shrimp diseases, feed and



Tuna broodstock are available 'out the back' of the hatchery





*Inside the tuna hatchery. The tanks are deeply inset into the ground*

nutrition, probiotics, live fish production, artemia production and processing are major features to support the production technology.

Centre manpower consists of 34 researchers four with doctoral degrees and 10 with the masters degree, 27 engineers, and 64 technical and administrative support staff. Facilities include an impressive dry lab for work on diseases and parasites, nutrition, biology, biotechnology and chemistry, and a wet lab consisting of hatcheries for shrimp, mud and swimming crab, grouper, and yellow fin tuna. A



*Cromileptes altevelis fingerlings*

mariculture station with several floating cages completes the infrastructure.

We congratulate the past leadership (Dr Ketut Sugama who is now Director of Central Institute of Fisheries Research posted in Jakarta, and current TAC Chairman) as well as the present (Dr Adi Hanafi, a quiet hardworking scientist) and staff, for the impressive development and achievements of the Centre. The same goes to the Directorate General of Aquaculture, which has given the support and allowed scientific independence to the centre. These, among other factors, have made the Gondol Research Institute for Mariculture a valuable regional resource for aquaculture development.

### **Side event centers on Farmer Associations**

At the second meeting of FAO's Subcommittee on Aquaculture held in Trondheim, Norway on 7-11 August 2003, the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) and NACA convened a discussion session on the role of farmers associations in sustainable aquaculture. The purpose was to bring to the attention of the Aquaculture Subcommittee the significance of the issue so that it might recommend to the Committee on

Fisheries a program to encourage the strengthening of national farmers associations and to stimulate if not assist in the formation of a regional association of aquaculture producers in Asia and other regions. Discussion papers were provided by FEAP and NACA. A comprehensive review was presented of FEAP's experiences, its history and development, role in European aquaculture development, services to members, its efforts to professionalize its ranks and operation and management, as well as making itself viable, sustainable and relevant to its members and to the industry. NACA put together a brief synthesis of a survey of 8 farmer associations in five Asian countries.

The meeting informed the Aquaculture Subcommittee Meeting that (a) farmer associations are important partners in sustainable aquaculture development; (b) enabling environments and appropriate facilities should be provided to strengthen farmers associations; and (c) provision of these would contribute to the reasons for and the creation of regional producers organizations in Asia and other regions. The Subcommittee has recommended work on enhancing the role of farmers associations in promoting sustainable aquaculture development as a priority area.



*The tuna tanks are deeply inset into the ground*