

Challenges and Constraints in Adopting Certification from Thai Producers Point of Views



Tirawat Leepaisomboon
President
Fresh Water Area Shrimp Farmers Association

Shrimp Farm in Thailand

- ~15 % of farms are large-big
(>200 ton/year/farm)
- ~25 % of farms are medium-small
(>20 ton/year/farm)
- ~60% of farms are small-very small
(<20 ton/year/farm)

Shrimp Private Organization Network

Thai Chamber of commerce

```
graph TD; A[Thai Chamber of commerce] --- B[3 Regional Farmers Association]; A --- C[2 Exporter Association]; A --- D[2 Supplier Association];
```

3 Regional Farmers Association

2 Exporter Association

2 Supplier Association

- **Local shrimp farmer clubs**
- 5 Shrimp Farmers Co-operatives
- **Every organizations are independently manage their members.**

CoC was Introduced in 2000

- Pilot farm implement the program
- No additional price given to the CoC farm
- The volume of the CoC shrimp is not enough for the processing plant to manage the market and the production line

2003 (Starting Tools)

- Farm Registration mandatory for MD/FMD System
 - Significant resistant from farmer (extra-work)
- MD/FMD System started
 - Less service units / inconvenience for farmers
- Announcement of National Food Safety Year for 2004



2004 (Kick off “National Food Safety Year”)

- GAP intensive training program start
 - Most farms apply for the program.
- GAP auditing
 - Many farms failed.
- GAP Certification
 - The farmer started realizing the importance GAP concept.
- Residues problem had shown significantly improvement from the GAP farms

2005 (GAP in Demand)

- Processing Plant promoting Contract farming
 - The contracting farm must be GAP certified.
 - Some GAP farm get better price
 - GAP become demand for the farms
- Shrimp production 380,000 tons

2006 (Earning From the Result)

- GAP becomes a basic certification for shrimp farm
- Shrimp production 520,000 tons
 - Traceability (MD / FMD)
 - Food safety

2007 and Trend (Private Sector Point of View)

- GAP trend to be indirectly mandated
- More GAP Farms tend to move to CoC standard

Thai Aquaculture Certification

- It's the result from farmers participation, knowledge, experiences, and spirit
- Live on the 3 engines
 - Farmer / Organization
 - Government Control (Continuous Process)
 - Traceability (MD /FMD)
 - Laboratory Units
 - Governing Unit (Law and regulations)
 - Consumer Demand

Thai Aquaculture Certification

(con't)

- It's live and stay close to the farmers
- The certification system is for world consumer concerns (not for one's business)

Expectation of Thai Farmer on the Certification System

- Only one basic standard for farm certification
- The standard should be practical, economical, and lead to sustainability of small scale shrimp farmers
- The additional certification should come for a premium grade standard