



AQUACULTURE CRSP 22ND ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

AQUACULTURE CRSP SPONSORSHIP OF THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TILAPIA IN AQUACULTURE

*Eleventh Work Plan, Applied Technology and Extension Methodologies Research 2 (11ATER2)
Final Report*

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ABSTRACT

This project supported the planning and conduct of the Sixth International Symposium on Tilapia in Aquaculture. The ISTA 6 conference held 12–16 September 2004 in Manila, Philippines, was widely hailed as the most successful symposium yet held on tilapia aquaculture. Total attendance at the conference was almost 700 people, with 80 oral presentations and a dozen posters presented. ISTA 6 included a heavily attended trade show and field trips to tilapia production and processing centers at Lake Taal and Pampanga Province; research and development sites at the Science City of Muñoz; and supporting industries including feed mills, hatcheries, and other government institutions in the provinces of Laguna and Nueva Ecija.

INTRODUCTION

This was the sixth of the highly successful series of symposia that have brought together tilapia biologists to review the latest discoveries in tilapia biology, ecology, improvements in production systems and other fields related to tilapia and their use in aquaculture. This was the first of the symposia to be held in the Philippines after earlier meetings in Israel, Thailand, Cote D'Ivoire, the U.S., and Brazil. The Aquaculture CRSP has played a central role sponsoring the ISTA's in the US, Brazil, and the Philippines. This symposium had a special emphasis on the rapid advances in genetics, development of advanced breeds, the development of international markets, and opening new markets for Philippine produced tilapia products. ISTA 6 included a trade show, providing a forum for industry suppliers, seafood marketers and the aquaculture press to meet directly with researchers and producers. Field trips were conducted to nearby aquaculture sites.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Funds were expended through CLSU to support an assistant editor for the proceedings and to partially fund travel for international scientists and CLSU students to attend the ISTA. CRSP collaborators Bolivar, Mair, and

Fitzsimmons edited the proceedings. Cecilia Villamor, hired on the grant, coordinated receiving files, initial formatting, correcting basic English grammar, and sending files out for peer reviews. When the files were returned she organized them into the assigned sessions and prepared the proceedings layout. The proceedings were printed in the Philippines and distributed to all delegates of the conference. International travel funds were used to support the keynote speaker from China and to partially support housing expenses for a female delegate from Sri Lanka. Domestic travel funds were used for Bolivar and her students from CLSU for travel and hotel expenses. CRSP funds were also used to support the travel of most of the Asian collaborators from Aquaculture CRSP, many of whom presented at the symposium.

RESULTS

The conference hosted over 70 international delegates from more than 40 countries on all continents. There were over 400 paid delegates, about 100 volunteers from various agencies, approximately 75 farmers attended the Industry Forum, more than 60 people manned trade show booths, 20 artists submitted posters to the tilapia art session, and about 40 press credentials were provided. This brought the entire attendance to approximately 700. Attendance was more than 50% female. This was to

be expected considering the large number of women with professional training in aquaculture in the Philippines.

The Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the American Tilapia Association were the major sponsors of the meeting. Schering-Plough Aquaculture, the Aquaculture Collaborative Research Support Program, and FYD International were the co-sponsors of ISTA6. Collaborators of ISTA were the Central Luzon State University, Board of Investments of the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Science and Technology Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development, Aquaculture Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, BFAR-Fisheries Resource Management Project, Philippine Tilapia Incorporated, Philippine Fisheries Association, Philippine Aquaculture Society, Feedmix Nutrition Specialist, Inc., Santeh Feeds Corporation, TGA Farms, Inc., Cruz Aquaculture Corporation, Fisher Farms, Inc., Taiwan Tilapia Alliance and the Hoc Po Feeds Company. The supporters included Asian Institute of Technology, World Aquaculture Society, WorldFish Center, Global Aquaculture Alliance, CIRAD, and the Tilapia International Foundation.

During the symposium, Rafael Guerrero, a Filipino biologist widely considered to be one of the most influential scientists fostering the growth of tilapia aquaculture on a global basis, was honored with the John Heijne Memorial Award. This award is bestowed by the Tilapia International Foundation at the ISTA meetings, where lifetime achievements in support of tilapia aquaculture can be honored.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The ISTA 6 was such a great success and there were so many offers to host future ISTA's that it was decided to move the next ISTA up to the fall of 2006 in Guadalajara, Mexico. ISTA 7 will be held in conjunction with another

aquaculture forum rather than add an additional meeting to the aquaculture conference schedule. Several organizations have already offered to provide co-sponsorship or supporting sponsorship of the ISTA 7 including; USAID TIES program, World Aquaculture Society, WorldFish Center, Stirling University, and Panorama Acuicola Magazine). Several follow up reports will be submitted to the aquaculture press that was not represented at the symposium. Brazil recognized a considerable increase in production, consumption and export of tilapia products after the ISTA 5 conference in Rio de Janeiro. We hope that in several years we will be able to report a similar spike in Filipino tilapia industry.

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

The conference was a focal point of publicity for several days during the conference, until the earthquake. We were featured on the morning TV talk show, in three leading newspapers, and the opening ceremonies and press conference were covered by three TV networks. The Secretary of Agriculture announced at the meeting that tilapia would now be used as the fish representative in the standard market basket used by the government for various statistical and econometric purposes. Considerable discussions involved how to increase production of larger size fish for the international trade. The government met with existing processors and potential investors to organize a new production area in northern Mindanao Island that will be directed towards international trade. Hopes are to create several thousand jobs.

Cooperation between several of the attending agencies and universities was improved with the opportunity to discuss research presentations and plan future activities. Many of the international organizations were also able to develop new collaborations between one another and with groups in the Philippines. Benefits to the students attending included chances to meet domestic and international scientists