



Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010

Farming the waters for People and Food

22-25 September 2010, Phuket, Thailand

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**Global Conference
on
Aquaculture 2010**

**Expert Panel Presentation VI.1:
Protecting small-scale farmers: a reality within a
globalised economy?**

By
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22–25 September 2010, Phuket, Thailand

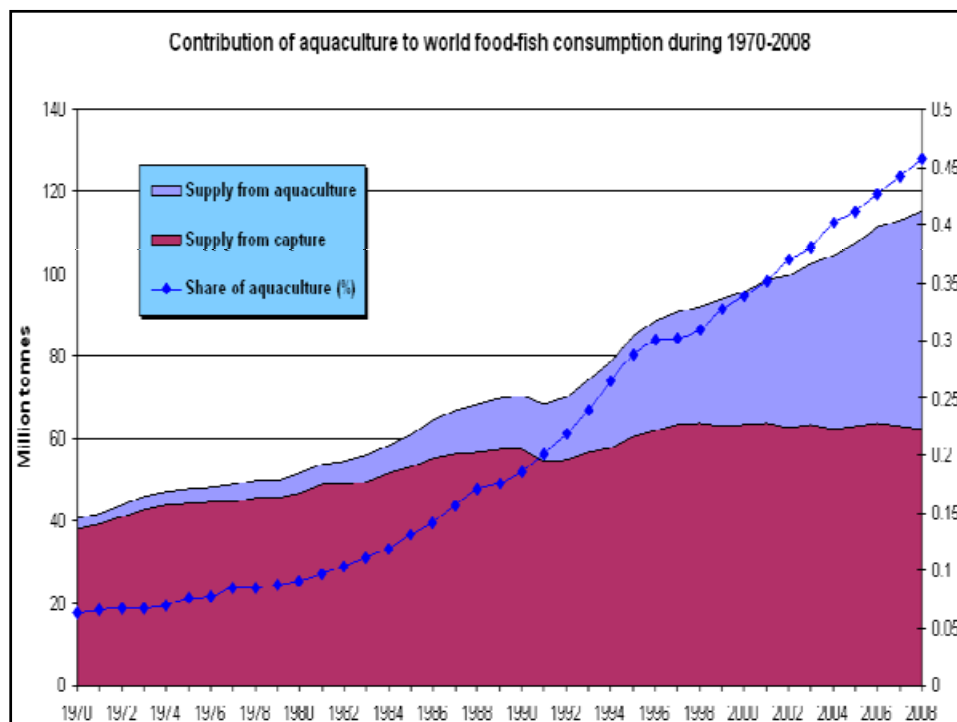


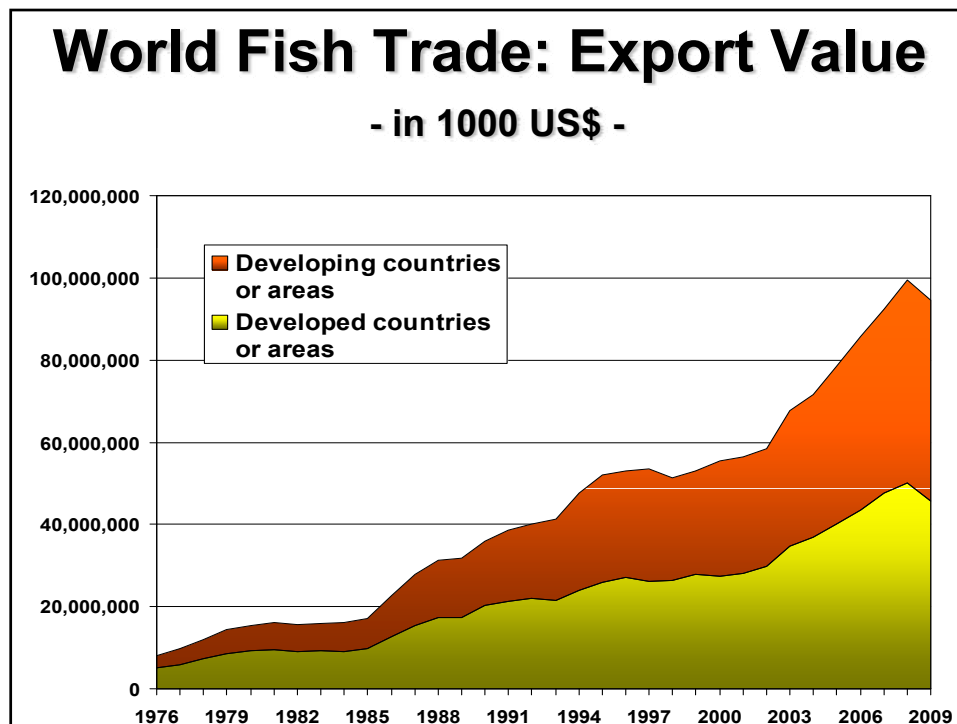
Panel Members

Imtiaz Ahmad
John Arnold
Laila Kassam
Santhana Krishnan
Kirby Lanerolle
Leena Nair
Betty Nyandat
Arun Padiyar
Michael Phillips
Waraporn Prompoj
Melba Reantaso
Rohana Subasinghe
Miao Weimin

Bangkok Declaration and Strategy

- ❖ No specific mention!
- ❖ **IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY AND ALLEVIATING POVERTY**
- ❖ **INTEGRATING AQUACULTURE INTO RURAL DEVELOPMENT**





Forecast for Future

- ❖ **52.5 million tonnes in 2008**
 - accounted for about 37 percent of the fishery products produced worldwide
 - contributed nearly 46% to the world's fish production for human consumption
- ❖ **Additional 30 million tonnes needed by 2030!**
- ❖ **Has to come from aquaculture!**
- ❖ **Small-scale farmers are therefore important!**

Global Economic Trends

- ❖ **Number of people in poverty declined**
- ❖ **However, global poverty increased?**
- ❖ **Over a billion people are below the poverty line!**
- ❖ **There are several emerging major economies from the developing world**
- ❖ **Corporate farming is in the increase**

Globalization

- ❖ **Globalization leads to:**
 - **Worldwide marketing of goods and services**
 - **Increased economies of scale**
 - **Supports corporate governance**
 - **But small-scale producers are slowly pushed out of business due to competition.**

Small-Scale Aquaculture

- ❖ **The term is not well defined, but considered here to encompass a spectrum of household-managed farming activities ranging from “subsistence” farmers to more commercially oriented micro-and small-scale enterprises.**

Small Scale Aquafarmers

- ❖ **Are characterized by:**
 - **Small land and water areas**
 - **Family scale operations/businesses**
 - **Often use family labor**
 - **Often based on family land (of declining area...)**
 - **China has 240 million agriculture farmers, with < 0.1 ha.**
 - **Vulnerability**

SSA Definitions!

❖ *Resource-poor individuals or groups of people involved in small-scale aquaculture production, i.e. aquaculture production facilities and processes with small production volume, and/or relatively small surface area, and typically lacking technical and financial capacity.....*

Small Scale Aquafarmers

- ❖ They are:**
- **>80% of an estimated 12 million aquaculture farmers in Asia?**
 - **Major contributors to production in many countries**
 - **Major contributors to global farmed fish supply**

Small Scale Aquafarmers

❖ They are:

- Highly innovative sector
- Important for rural development, communities, employment, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability
- A part of our international commitments towards the Millennium Development Goals



1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

2 Achieve universal primary education

3 Promote gender equality and empower women

4 Reduce child mortality

5 Improve maternal health

6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

7 Ensure environmental sustainability

8 Develop a global partnership for development

✓ Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day

✓ Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

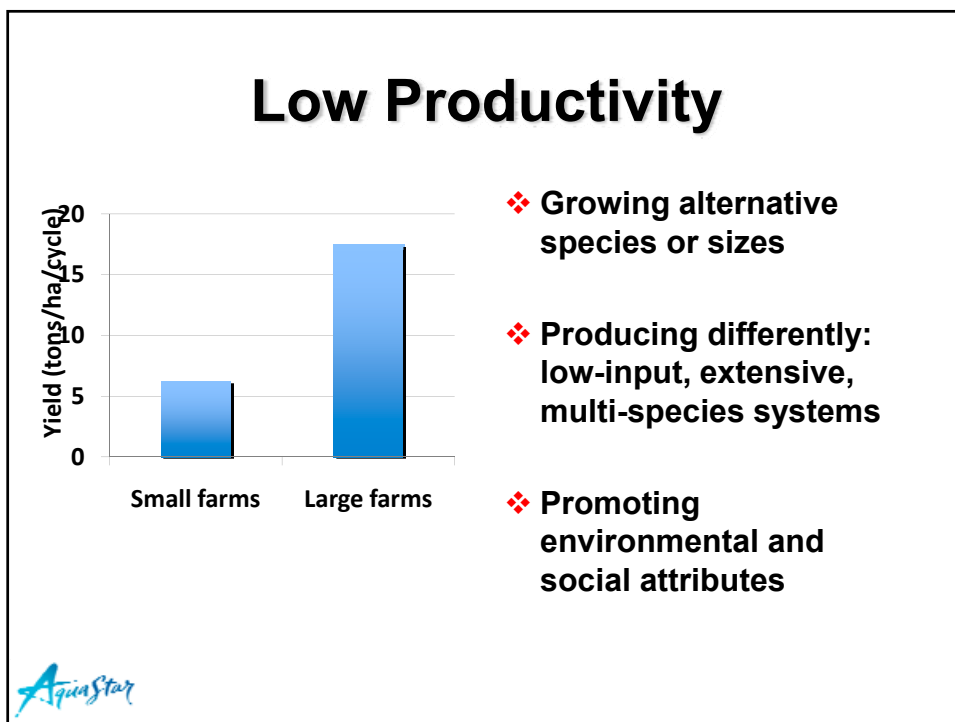
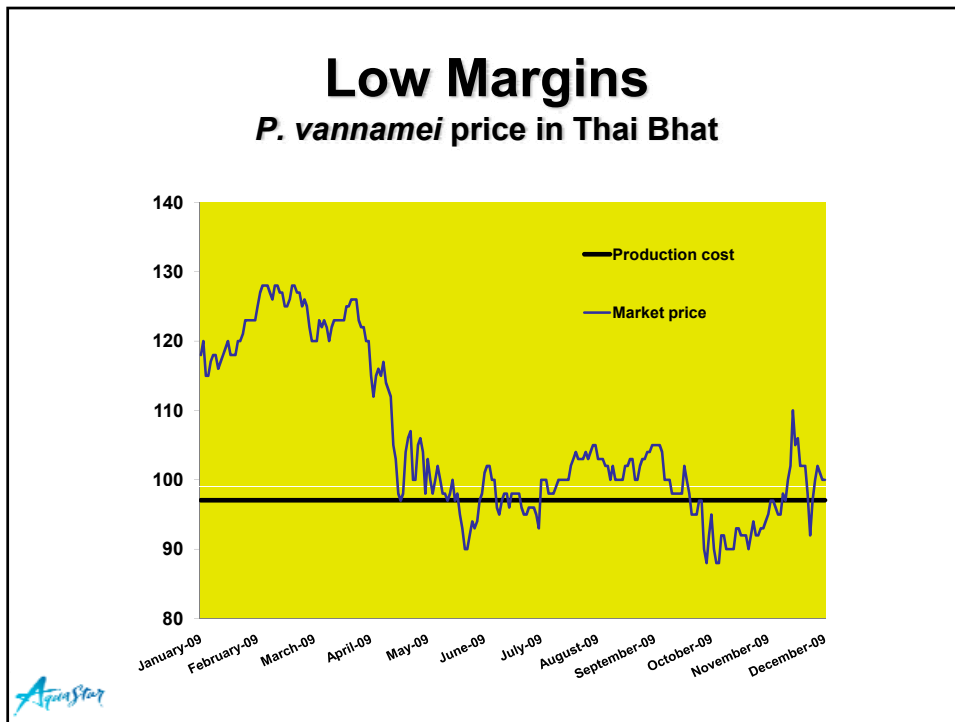
✓ Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Current Trends

- ❖ **Present trends in international market and trade are working against the small-scale aquaculture sector:**
 - **Commodity price declines, costs of production increases**
 - **Changes in costs and business structures of aquaculture**
 - **Risk management strategies of larger traders and buyers are driving against small-scale farmers**

Current Trends

- **Easier for big buyers to deal with big farms with large product volumes!**
- **Small quantities of product – inconvenient to larger buyers**
- **Market access requirements for certification, traceability and quality assurance**
- **Small farms are being shut!**



Can they Adapt?

❖ **Capacity to adapt is also constrained by special features of the small-scale aquaculture sector:**

- Inadequate access to financial resources to invest in change
- Inadequate access to markets, technical and business knowledge
- Unfavorable institutional and policy orientation
- Commercial/government services are less oriented towards the small-scale farmer

Can they Manage?

❖ **Are there ways for small-scale aquaculture farmers to participate in modern market chains and trade?**

- Recent experiences show positive pro-small-scale farmer action can result in positive benefits.
- Organization of farmers into producer groups is a key way forward

Can they Manage?

- **Organizing farmers:**
 - May allow certification of groups as opposed to individuals
 - Allows economies of scale (e.g. bulk purchase and marketing)
 - Facilitates communication and extension
 - Facilitates “better management”
 - Facilitates organized marketing
 - Individually, farmers will face increasing difficulties for market access.
- **Domestic and niche markets may offer opportunities**

How can we help?

- ❖ **Public investments are needed for the small-scale sector**
 - **Policy favorable to the small-scale sector**
 - Supporting farmer group formation
 - Technical and marketing services for small-scale aquaculture producers

How can we help?

- **Policy favorable to the small-scale sector**
 - **Market access for small-scale producers**
 - **Information services for rural farmers**
 - **Access to financial services**
 - **Encouraging private investment in small-scale aquaculture production and services**

How can we help?

- **Social "safety nets" for most vulnerable**
- **Educational and technical institutions oriented to the small-scale aquaculture sector**
- **Trade rules and guidelines that consider the needs and realities of the small-scale sector**
- **International cooperation across market chains**

How can we help?

- ❖ **Business investment is also needed in the small-scale sector!**
 - **There are many opportunities for private investment to support small-scale farmers:**
 - **Micro-finance and financial services**
 - **Technical and marketing services**
 - **Information services**
 - **Input packaging and delivery**

How can we help?

- ❖ **Tested certification and quality assurance schemes relevant for small-scale aquaculture producers should be promoted!**

How can we help?

❖ The crucial role of small-scale aquaculture farmers in aquaculture production and trade should be recognized:

- **The small-scale sector is the largest aquaculture producer and the mainstay of communities in many parts of the world, particularly, but not exclusively in Asia**
- **It is an innovative sector, but faced with many problems and constraints in the modern trade and market environment**

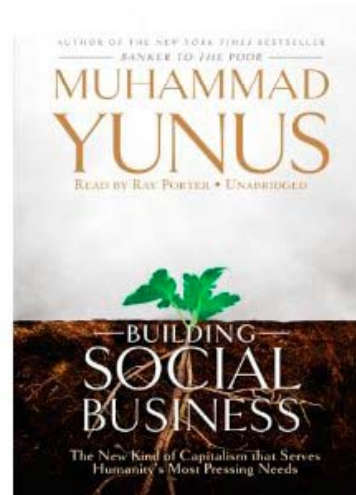
How can we help?

- **It needs investment from public and private sector to compete and thrive in the modern aquaculture scene**
- **The sector is socially and economically significant and cannot be ignored.**

How can we help?

❖ **“Corporate social responsibility” initiatives are necessary**

- Facilitating market access
- Provision of technical and financial assistance
- Favorable brand development and marketing
- Many more!



It is our Responsibility!

- ❖ **Protecting small scale farmers will become a reality if we all have the will to make a change!**

***“The ones who are crazy enough to
think they can change the world,
are the ones that do”***

- Steve Jobs

Thank You!