

GLOBALG.A.P. Aquaculture Certification: Improving Sustainability for the entire Production Chain

Valeska Weymann*

* GLOBAL G.A.P.

Abstract

GLOBALG.A.P. AQUACULTURE CERTIFICATION: IMPROVING SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE ENTIRE PRODUCTION CHAIN GLOBALG.A.P. Is a not-for-profit private sector body that sets voluntary standards for the certification of production processes of aquaculture and agricultural products around the globe. Standards are designed to assure consumers about how food is produced on the farm. Serves as a practical manual for Good Agricultural Practice (G.A.P.) anywhere in the world. Firmly believes in local multi-stakeholder support and adaptation: “Think Global, Act Local” principle. This goal is increasingly achieved worldwide with the establishment of National Technical Working Groups. Their role is to develop national interpretation guidelines to address identified specific local adaptation and implementation challenges. Aquaculture Standard v4.0-1 is possible since March 2011. This new version was field tested for both tropical and cold water species in all production systems allowing certification of any aquaculture farmed origin product (hatchery based, with the consideration of passive collection of seedlings in the planktonic phase). This innovative approach is aimed to reduce complexity and cost of on-farm certification system. Recently launched Compound Feed Manufacturing Standard V.2.1 (Dec2011) includes approaches towards sustainable sourcing of fishmeal and fish oil. Chain of Custody Standard aims to maintain product certified status when product changes ownership through the supply chain. Group certification is also possible through the GLOBALG.A.P. Option 2, where small holders can adhere to certification system jointly with the implementation of a Quality Management System.