

Title: **Organic Aquaculture in Vietnam**

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Abstract: Organic aquaculture was first introduced in Vietnam by VASEP in 1999 and determined by the Government of Vietnam as an strategic direction for development of sustainable and responsible aquaculture. Through a cooperation arrangement between VASEP and the Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO), the first organic black tiger shrimp farm was set up in the Aqua-Forest Farm No 184 Ca Mau province in 2001. The farm was certified by IMO to satisfy the Naturland organic standard. Farmers participating in the project have protected ecological environment and replant mangroves within their farms such that 70% of the total farm area is under mangrove. The farm has begun exporting organic shrimp to Europe since 2002. In 2003, a three-year shrimp hatchery improvement project was begun by SIPPO in cooperation with the Ministry of Fisheries, one of the objectives of which is to certify as organic selected black-tiger shrimp hatcheries. Besides black tiger shrimp, other species which are farmed in an organic manner are the freshwater prawn *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*, catfish (*Pangasius hypophthalmus*) culture and alternating rice and shrimp farming. Among the challenges faced by organic farming are the low yield, shortage of locally produced organic feed, low price premium, finding organic markets for other species obtained in the harvests, low financial returns and the lack of common international standards for organic farming.