

Conversion from Conventional to Organic Aquaculture Farming in the Philippines: Potential and constrains

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Abstract

In contrast to conventional aquaculture, organic aquaculture is an overall system of farm management and food production. On one hand, it focuses on best environmental practices, a high level of biodiversity, preservation of natural resources, and the application of high animal welfare. On the other hand, it guarantees stable prices of all goods exported markets, including those in the European Union, and it provides job security for local farmers, based on certification of their organically produced products. While some conventional farmers are forced to provide quantities of products for local markets, they may often use fertilizers and pesticides or provide supplemental feeds containing ingredients from genetically modified organisms to maximize the growth. Organic aquaculture goes for healthy quality standards in order to tackle European markets, where increasing numbers of consumers demand and pay for organic products.

This study was conducted to find out whether aquaculture farms in Negros Occidental in the Philippines would be suitable for organic aquaculture production and gain certification by the relevant agencies.

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