

**AQUAFISH CRSP SPONSORSHIP OF THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TILAPIA IN AQUACULTURE TO BE HELD IN EGYPT
And
Student Poster Awards at WAS 2009 World Meeting in Veracruz, Mexico and
Aquaculture 2010 in San Diego**

Technology Adoption & Policy Development/ Activity/ 07TAP03UA

Pablo Gonzalez Alanis
Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas
Carretera Villahermosa-Cárdenas Km. 0.5
Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, México. CP 86000

Kevin Fitzsimmons
Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science
Environmental Research Laboratory
University of Arizona
2601 E. Airport Dr.
Tucson, Arizona 85706

ABSTRACT

The ISTA 8 was successfully held in mid-October 2008. Almost 450 people attended the conference and tradeshow. The Proceedings, co-published by the AquaFish CRSP, included over 100 papers filling two volumes and 1500 pages. At the September 2009 World Aquaculture Meeting and 2010 WAS Meeting in San Diego student poster presentations were judged. The criteria for judging included applicability to sustainable aquaculture practices in developing countries, quality of the science, visual presentation of research on the poster, and on oral discussions with the judges.

INTRODUCTION

The Eighth International Symposium on Tilapia in Aquaculture (ISTA8), co-sponsored by the AquaFish CRSP, was held in Cairo, Egypt Oct 12-14, 2008. The event recognized the birthplace of tilapia aquaculture and home of the Nile tilapia on the 25th anniversary of the first ISTA held in Israel in 1983. The host for the ISTA was Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research, based at Abbassa, Egypt and part of the Ministry of Agriculture. Another co-sponsor of the ISTA was the WorldFish Centre. The Cairo Convention Center was the venue for the conference and provided excellent facilities for simultaneous translations, concurrent sessions, and a trade show. The scope of the ISTA symposia has closely matched the growth of tilapia farming into a global industry of the second most commonly farmed fish in the world. From the first ISTA with several dozen participants, the ISTA's in Brazil, the Philippines, Mexico, and now Egypt have each drawn between 600 and 900 attendees. Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been created in the farming, processing, and selling of almost 3,000,000 mt of tilapia products per year. This enormous quantity of fish has been produced in many of the world's poorest developing nations, providing high quality seafood to their own people as well as the most highly developed markets. This fact was reflected in the diversity of attendees and presentations from 40 different countries.

Objectives:

1. To provide travel support for Dr. Gonzalez and four international contributors from other Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP countries to attend ISTA 8.
2. To employ a UAT student to assist with the compilation of papers submitted to the ISTA 8 conference proceedings.
3. To publish and print the Proceedings of the 8th ISTA. To establish an ISTA website for on-line submission of abstracts and papers and eventual e-archiving of paper and presentations in PDF formats.

Travel support

Travel support to the conference was provided for Pablo Gonzalez, Mario Hernandez and Vicente Camporredondo from Mexico, Charles Ngugi from Kenya, Khalid Salie from South Africa, Pamela Ramotar from Guyana and Yang Yi from China. We were pleased to be able to spread the support so that we were able to bring 7 people rather than the five proposed (plus Fitzsimmons).

Proceedings completed

The technical sessions included 112 presentations with each presentation having a paper also published in the proceedings. Papers on genetics, nutrition, fish health, processing and food safety, best management practices, marketing and value added products, certification programs, and regional reviews are included in the proceedings. Copies of the ISTA 8 proceedings are available from the World Aquaculture Society on-line bookstore (www.was.org) or from the co-Chairman, Dr. Hussein El-Ghobashy helghobashy46@yahoo.com at the Central Laboratory for Aquaculture in Egypt. Another website has been set up with PDF's versions of the all the papers, and some of the Power Point presentations at <http://ag.arizona.edu/ista/ISTA8> and <http://ag.arizona.edu/azaqua/ista/ISTA8/ProceedingsISTA8.txt>. Most of the papers are in English with Arabic translations of the abstracts, and a few vice-versa. Keynote addresses included Saad Nasser's discussion of the state of aquaculture in Egypt, Yang Yi's presentation on advances in pond management, Jesse Chappel's review of an integrated tomato and tilapia production system, Kevin Fitzsimmons' market review and description of new products, and description of the VitaFish recirculation system in Belgium by Jooste DeSmed. Other past and present CRSP participants included Remedios Bolivar and three others from CLSU-Philippines, Charles Ngugi, Karen Veverica, Khalid Salie, Chhorn Lim, Pablo Gonzalez, Mario Hernandez, and several Egyptians, in addition to Yi and Fitzsimmons. One student at Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas and one student at the University of Arizona were hired on the project to assist with organizing the abstracts, send papers out for review, collate papers into sessions, and keep records on the internet website. Two students were also employed in Egypt to prepare papers, provide Arabic translations, work with the Website designers and managers, and eventually to help with translations and social aspects at the ISTA 8 event itself.

Conference highlights

Other aspects of the conference included a Nile dinner cruise with tilapia on the menu to go along with classic Egyptian entertainment and a farm tour to the Egyptian Aquaculture Center, managed by Dr. Ishmail Radwan. The Center provided an extensive tour covering hatchery, pond harvesting, and packing of fresh fish for Cairo and Alexandria markets. Egypt has become the second largest tilapia producer after China. Much of that growth has been attributed to training and support provided by the Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture CRSP. One of the focal points of ISTA8 was the steps that are

needed for Egypt to become a significant exporter of tilapia products. Several papers were devoted to describing Best Management Practices, ISO and HACCP standards, and other international criteria that Egyptian farmers and processors will need to implement in order for other countries to accept Egyptian tilapia exports.

Many people also took advantage of open periods to visit the Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx, the Egyptian Museum, and Luxor where they could observe hieroglyphics of tilapia held in ponds during the Early and Middle Kingdoms of Egyptian history. Lunch and coffee breaks provided opportunities for discussions between delegates to compare results and projects.

Reverend Jan Heijne Award

The Tilapia International Foundation presented their award recognizing exceptional career service in support of poverty alleviation through tilapia aquaculture to Dr. Marc Verdegem from Wageningen University during the Nile dinner cruise. Named for Reverend Heinje, who organized and supported several tilapia farming projects in developing countries with his congregation in the Netherlands, the award is presented at each of the ISTA events. Following tradition, the Ambassador from the Netherlands to the host country, Egypt in this case, presented the award. Dr. Verdegem has a distinguished record of development projects in Africa and Asia along with publications of research conducted in the field and at Wageningen.

Sponsors and Supporters

Egypt's Central Laboratory of Aquaculture Research in the Department of Agriculture and Land Reclamation was the ISTA host for the symposium. The American Soybean Association provided travel support for two international speakers to attend ISTA8. The World Fish Centre provided several local staff to assist planning and implementation of the conference and provided travel support for several of their staff scientists to attend and present. The World Aquaculture Society, American Tilapia Association and Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) provided advertising and announcement support. GAA also provided complimentary copies of their Global Aquaculture Advocate magazine for inclusion in the conference bags. Intervet-Schering-Plough provided \$10,000 in unrestricted support which was used to support coffee breaks and lunches. An additional grant from the US-Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service for \$25,000 supported participation from several scientists from Sub-Saharan countries. Another \$20,000 was pledged from the Egyptian Science and Technology Fund, but these funds were never delivered, despite many letters and personal visits by Dr. El-Ghobashy.

Student Awards at WAS 2009 in Veracruz, Mexico

In September 2009, the student judging panel reviewed the criteria for the WAS and AquaFish CRSP awards and incorporated these into the judging forms. Kevin Fitzsimmons and Wilfrido Contreras served on the panel along with the other volunteers recruited by the WAS Awards Committee. The posters were evaluated by at least three judges and the results were tallied on the second day in order to make the awards at the student reception held on the second evening of the WAS meetings. The winning students were recognized at the student reception and awarded their checks and certificates. (Figures 1-3).



First Prize - \$400
Sabas Jimenez Rojo
Instituto Tecnologico - Boca del Rio
Veracruz
MEXICO

Second Prize - \$200
Ignacio Fernandez
IRTA, Centre de Sant Carles de la Rapita
Sant Carles de la Rapita
SPAIN

Second Prize - \$200
Socorro Jimenez Valera
Departamento de AcuCentro de Investigacion
Ensenada, Baja California
MEXICO

Student Awards at WAS 2010 in San Diego, CA

Three awards were also determined at the San Diego meeting and certificates and checks prepared. Only one of the students, Murni, from the University of Rhode Island was present to collect materials and have photo taken. The other two winners are having their certificates and checks mailed and will send photos with their major professors.



ISTA 9

The next ISTA has already been scheduled and will take place in Shanghai, China on April 22-25, 2011. Shanghai Ocean University (SOU) will host ISTA 9 at the same time as the Ninth Asian Fisheries Society meetings. SOU has an entirely new campus south of the Shanghai-Pudong International Airport in the master planned suburb of Lingang-Shanghai. The Howard Johnson's Hotel-Lingang will serve as one of the conference hotels along with the JinJiang Inn. Additional economical housing will be available in the graduate student dormitories on the SOU campus. Many of our past sponsors have already agreed to co-sponsor the ISTA 9, along with additional support from the Chinese aquaculture industry. In particular, Intervet-Schering Plough has already committed to a \$10,000 sponsorship. The conference websites are under construction at <http://www.9afaf.org/Index.html> and <http://ag.arizona.edu/azaqua/ista/ISTA9/ISTA9.htm>

CONCLUSIONS

The ISTA 8 continued the successful series of symposia that have documented the rapid growth of the tilapia industry in the developing world and of the considerable contributions provided by Aquaculture CRSP scientists and students to achieving this feat. The Student Poster Awards provided recognition for the considerable efforts of AquaFish CRSP to support international students and the goal of developing sustainable aquaculture technologies.