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Sustainable Aquaculture for a Secure Future

Title: Snakehead aquaculture in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam

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Abstract: AquaFish will not be distributing this publication. Copies may be obtained by writing to the authors.

This Brief Communication is prepared based on data and information collected during the field trip to snakehead fish culture farms in the Mekong Delta in 2009, with the support of AquaFish CRSP.

In the recent years, aquaculture has played an economically important role in the Mekong Delta. Catfish, snakehead fish and freshwater prawn significantly contributed to an increased total freshwater aquaculture production. Of which, snakehead was an important species cultured in Mekong Delta. There are four key popular culture systems of snakehead fish, including pond culture, hapa culture, cage culture and nylon tank culture. Data collected from provinces in the Mekong Delta showed that the snakehead production in region was about 30,000 tons in 2009, of which *Channa micropelte* was 7,500 tons. However, the farmers in the Mekong Delta attended to small scale systems and spontaneous systems. There are four species of snakehead fish cultured in Mekong Delta, comprising of *Channa gachua*, *Channa lucius*, *Channa striata*, *Channa micropelte*. *Channa striata* and *Channa micropelte* are two main cultured species in Mekong Delta now.

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