

USSEC Helps Large Commercial Shrimp Farm in Philippines Save on Feed Costs

USSEC helped a large commercial shrimp farm in the Philippines reformulate their shrimp diets with higher soy inclusion, resulting in big savings on feed cost for the farmer.

The shrimp farm, located in the central Philippines, operates about 206 ponds on a 208 hectare farm, with a watered area of 135 hectares. The farm also produces milkfish, which are intercropped with shrimp.

Total production of shrimp is 700-800 metric tons per year and production of milkfish is 600-700 metric tons per year. The shrimp farm operates its own feed mill, shrimp and milkfish hatcheries and shrimp processing plant. They export their shrimp and sell shrimp in their local supermarkets.

In 2009, the shrimp farm owner requested the help of USSEC for the reformulation of their shrimp diet after the cost of feed ingredients began increasing tremendously. In June 2009, Timothy O'Keefe, USSEC Feedmill and Nutrition Expert/Consultant, and Levy Loreto Manalac, USSEC Technical Manager for Aquaculture, visited the farm for the formulation of a soy-optimized shrimp diet, one with 45% crude protein, 7% crude fat and one with 40% crude protein, 7% crude fat.

USSEC soy-optimized shrimp diets were tested and compared to the mills' own shrimp formulations in 28 ponds.

USSEC shrimp diets were tested in 14 ponds from January to June 2010.

After the trial, results showed that there was no significant difference in shrimp growth, survival rate, biomass/pond and FCR. The significant difference was on the feed cost. The cost of feed per kilogram of shrimp in USSEC ponds was \$2.28/kg in U.S. dollars. For control ponds, the cost was \$ 2.50/kg.

This translated into a savings of \$7,069 for the 14 ponds. If the USSEC soy-optimized shrimp feeds were used for the 200 ponds, the total savings would be \$108,800.

At the end of trial, the farm manager requested that the USSEC soy-optimized shrimp feed be used for the whole farm.

