

USSEC Cultivates Aquaculture Growth Around the World

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The aquaculture industry continues to expand to meet global fish and seafood demand, and USSEC is committed to supporting its development. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) expects aquaculture production to increase nearly one-third from 2018 to 2030. Many consider aquaculture a key part of the solution to sustainably meeting human protein needs.



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“With aquaculture expansion comes the need to provide sustainable feed ingredients,” says Tom Alfonso, Ph.D., USSEC director of animal and aquaculture. “That’s where U.S. Soy shines as a verified sustainable solution to meeting aquafeed protein needs in many species. USSEC highlights U.S. Soy for the aquaculture industry through ongoing education, long-term relationships, and investments in innovation.”

Rapid growth and technological advances in aquaculture create an industry culture eager to learn. The USSEC team works closely with aquaculture producers and industry partners to share new information and deepen knowledge as technology improves. With soy checkoff and U.S. government support for agricultural trade, they consistently position U.S. Soy as an aquafeed solution with high nutrient value, protein density, digestibility, and amino acid profile to support growth and health.

One region experiencing steady growth is South Asia, now contributing significantly to fishery production in Asia. Globally, India ranks No. 2 in aquaculture production, after China.

“As the aquaculture industry in South Asia modernizes and diversifies, the need to ensure quality feed and feed ingredients for sustainable, healthy fish and shrimp is increasing,” Alfonso says. “USSEC research and events meet that need.”

To share how U.S. Soy fits aquafeed needs, the USSEC team hosted International Aquaculture Feed Formulation Database (IAFFD) workshops in Bangladesh and India. Aquafeed formulators, nutritionists and consultants learned how to use software based on the IAFFD to develop rations for shrimp and fish. The Aqua Tech Talks Nutrition workshop held in Hyderabad, India, welcomed representatives from leading aquaculture companies in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Conversations reinforced the growing need for sustainable plant protein, like soy, as the top ingredient choice for aquafeeds.

“Similar efforts focused on aquaculture nutrition occur in other regions of the world. Work within the aquaculture industry also highlights how U.S. Soy generates potential to strengthen international relationships while improving food security,” he adds.

Ongoing support of the Iraqi aquaculture industry demonstrates [USSEC’s long-term commitments](#). During USSEC’s regional aquaculture production conference in 2019, USSEC leaders met with major aquaculture producers, aquafeed millers and the Aquaculture Producers Association of Iraq to learn how USSEC could foster development of the industry.

Building on that discussion, USSEC organized an aquafeed seminar for freshwater fish species for the Iraqi aquaculture industry in December 2021. In recognition and appreciation of efforts to develop their industry, the Iraqi Fish Producers Association recognized USSEC leaders with plaques during USSEC’s Regional Aquaculture Production Conference for Middle East and North Africa (MENA), held in Dubai in December 2022.