Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center **Aquaculture Department**

SEAFDEC/AQD Institutional Repository **http://repository.seafdec.org.ph**

Journals/Magazines Aqua Farm News

1996

A perspective of the carp industry in the Philippines

Aquaculture Department, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Aquaculture Department (1996). A perspective of the carp industry in the Philippines. Aqua Farm News, 14(6), 4-5.

http://hdl.handle.net/10862/2442

Downloaded from https://repository.seafdec.org.ph, SEAFDEC/AQD's Institutional Repository

A perspective of the carp industry in the Philippines

Laguna de Bay is being tapped as freshwater source for domestic use: what happens to the carp industry?

From the fishfarmers

Dr. Alex King

Dr. Alex King, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine is into carp business for several years. He had his share of peak and lean harvest and this he said is attributed to weather condition.

"Carp business is profitable but I think the market strategy is poor, also post harvest and processing. It just doesn't appeal to the consumers." Other sellers desperately mislead consumers into buying their carp as red snapper. "If you are not keen you won't see the difference by their appearance. And maybe it's because carp if prepared and cooked well it tastes like red snapper".

"Things seem to be going better for carp until last year when the Napindan outlet to the sea was locked up preventing seawater to get into the lake".

"Gone are those planktonic food which abound when water in the lake becomes brackish and not as turbid as it is now".

Raul Aralar

Being in the business for years, Raul seem to practically know all about carp culture. He's into both hatchery and grow-out. Obviously a profitable business, he is now improving and expanding his hatchery facilities located right at the back of his residence along Laguna lake.

Raul acknowledges SEAFDEC for the technology and assistance although he says there's still job to be done. Larval rearing techniques need to be improved. We still encounter problems during that stage.

"No, I'm not using the recent methods recommended by SEAFDEC to induce spawning because of the mixing protocol. I still use the traditional HCG + LHRHa. It's easier for me".

Raul expects a good market during the Holy week when everybody abstains from eat-

next page please ...

From the researchers

SEAFDEC *(Andy Santiago and Lito Gonzal)*

It's not the end of the carp industry says Andy and Lito referring to the existing conflict of use of Laguna lake. This development however is putting the researchers of Binangonan Freshwater Station in a sad predicament.

Laguna lake is being tapped as a potential source of freshwater for domestic use. This would mean the closure of the Hydraulic Control structure in Napindan river. Plankton and other natural foods abound when the water is a bit brackish enhancing growth of fishes in the lake. No seawater means less or no plankton. "Bangus definitely will be out because of this", says Andy. Only tilapia or carp will grow but wouldn't be the way it should if the food is abundant.

While they sympathize with fish growers, water is also needed for domestic use. "We can import fish but we can't import water, says Andy claiming that SEAFDEC has to take its pro-active role. "We have a ready alternative for that intensify carp/tilapia culture and venture into other species like catfish, mudfish or snakehead".

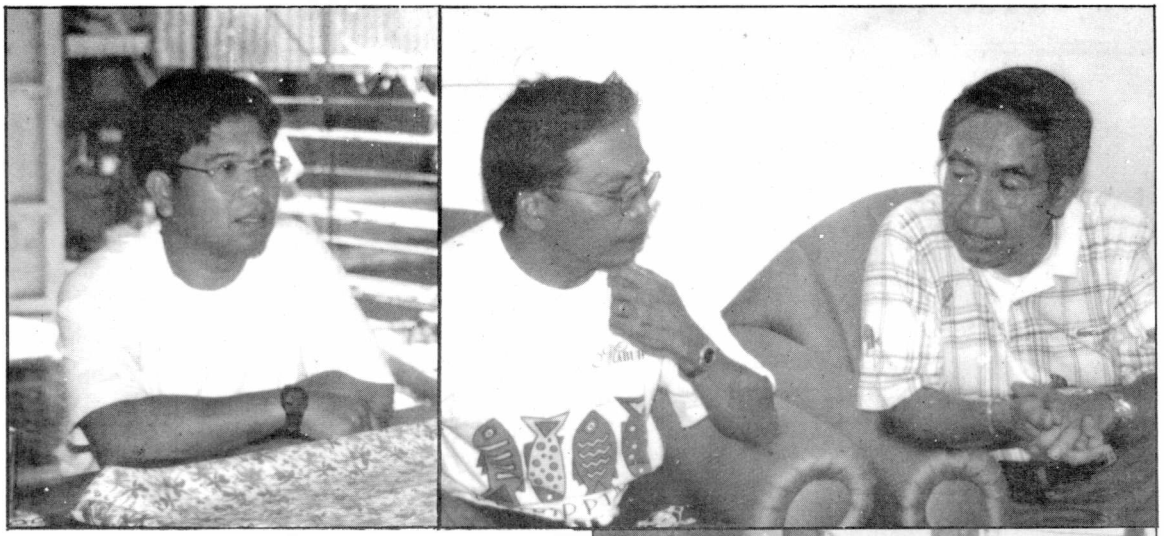
Both Andy and Lito agree that carp can really be a very important commodity but the marketing strategy should be improved. ICLARM, Andy says, is now involved in carp.

Lito thinks SEAFDEC should be a frontline ally of carp growers since we developed the technology for lake culture.

BFAR *(Aida Palma)*

Aida, a strong ally of carp farmers emphasized the need to really put carp industry in line with other high valued fishes. A government extension worker, she loudly expressed her views of the apparent neglect for the carp industry, obviously referring to the lack of coordination between government agencies". Acceptance

next page please...



Andy Santiago, station head of SEAFDEC Binangonan Freshwater station and researcher Lito Gonzal (right) explain the existing conflict of use of Laguna de Bay, Raul Aralar (left) is into carp grow out and hatchery business while Aida Palma of BFAR (below) looks forward to seeing carp industry in the forefront of freshwater aquaculture.

ing meat. While he thinks there's no problem in marketing within the vicinity because of high demand, he laments poaching is still rampant. He said, he just lost stock of breeders last week.

"I think carp is more profitable business than tilapia, he said having had tried the two species. Carp grows faster for you can easily get a 1.5-2 kg after 4-6 months of culture. Before, two crops can be done in a year in either pens or cages but now, the food for carps are no longer abundant in the lake.

Amer Mercado

Amer thinks money is easier to get from carp than tilapia. Aside from being easy to culture, it grows faster. "Stocking 10,000 per ha in pens and with favorable weather, I could get 100-150 kgs. Even in my hatchery business it goes well if the weather is good".Like Raul, Amer's wife serves as his personal assistant, helping him out in records and financial management.

Amer attracts buyers by lowering the price of fingerlings. "In that way I can help struggling businessmen and encourage them to join the rolls of carp growers in Binangonan". The more the merrier. To those who want to engage in the business, here are the keywords: responsible, hardworking, goodwill and honesty.

Aida Palma ... cont.

of the fish in coastal areas maybe limited because there's a lot to choose from. The target should be focused on landlocked areas where carp could be highly acceptable. Aida is now actively gathering data on catches of carp where she thinks is under reported hence under valued. From there she looks forward to seeing carp industry in the forefront of freshwater aquaculture.

There is a wide acceptance of carp especially in land-locked areas where choices are limited. No doubt the business is profitable because carp growers who have been into the business could attest to this. There is however apparent neglect for or gap in the industry because despite these indications, carp culture is still unstable. Something should really be done to improve the marketing strategy.

The restriction of use of Laguna de Bay does not mean the end of the carp industry. Carp culture will even be intensified in lieu of milkfish. SEAFDEC and other research agencies, however, need to work together on the alternatives as regards impending scarcity of natural food.