

## Tubungan: SFRs in action

By **ET Aldon**

Small freshwater reservoirs (SFRs) help the landlocked town of Tubungan achieve its food security agenda. Ingenious Tubunganons raise tilapia and catfish in these SFRs. The same water is used to irrigate ricelands downhill.



*Mayor Gorgonio Talledo of Tubungan: concern on food security for his constituents is utmost*

"By now, about 26 SFRs are operational in Tubungan, 19 more are still being developed," Mayor Gorgonio Talledo said. "I am targeting 100 SFRs which I hope to achieve given

the funding. We're glad that SEAFDEC/AQD is just near to help us in our aquaculture venture."

Mayor Talledo is quite fortunate that he has receptive and responsive people under him. He said his townfolks are cooperative because they badly need additional income to cope with the rising prices of prime commodities. Tubungan has mostly land farmers and is practically void of fish culture know-how. Farmers' training on fish culture has been hands-on.

Mayor Talledo also actively advocates environmental education for his constituents. He regularly warns residents about the adverse effects of using pesticide on the ecosystem. He abhors the bad habits of some rice farmers who use the rivers to wash their pesticide equipment. "You should be aware that you are killing living organisms including fishes that thrive in the river!" he would tell the farmers.

Education will make people understand environmental issues better, he further said. ###

## Tigbauan and Oton: reviving the *kapis* industry

By **ET Aldon**

Mayor Myrna Torres kept wondering why SEAFDEC/AQD has been helping other towns but not Tigbauan where it lies. And so in June this year, she wrote AQD Chief Dr. Rolando Platon to request technical assistance in aquaculture which Tigbauan is



*Mayor Myrna Torres of Tigbauan: seeking closer collaboration with SEAFDEC/AQD*

considering as livelihood option. "This is part of my commitment to my constituents," she wrote. In no time, AQD began collaborating with the LGU on reviving the *kapis*

(window-pane oyster) beds which used to abound in the area. The mayor and her councilors were present during the ceremonial stocking of *kapis* breeders in Barangay Namucon. Namucon fishers gathered to witness the stocking, and they were briefed about the project and the importance of environmental protection and conservation.

To ensure that the *kapis* breeding site remains undisturbed, Mayor Torres reactivated the *Bantay Dagat* (sea patrol team). Recently, she gathered trawlers to remind them to keep away from the breeding site. The fishers had promised to do so.

Aside from the Namucon site, Mayor Torres has also put into place a *kapis* breeding project in Buyuan. Her interest in aquaculture as an alternative livelihood does not stop there. Three other projects -- grouper culture in tanks in Barangay Tanpael, *siganid* culture in Linubayan and

*A sign off the Iloilo-Antique highway showing the way to the kapis reseeding site in Tigbauan*

mudcrab culture in mangroves in Baguingin -- are to be started soon.

Tigbauan has been actively participating in the yearly coastal clean up drive being initiated by AQD in collaboration with the International Marine Alliance. The LGU has also been holding regular meetings of barangay captains and municipal ag-

*SEAFDEC/AQD's Dan Baliao shows Mayor Carina Flores of Oton a kapis shell broodstock that came from AQD's research laboratories*





riculture and fishery officers to discuss legislations on coastal resources management. Mayor Torres is pleased that the Fisheries Code of 1998 gives the local government units complete jurisdiction over municipal waters and holds them responsible for the management of fishery and aquatic resources within their municipal waters.

In Oton, on the other hand, Mayor Carina Flores has had the impression that AQD is only helping pond owners and big fishers. She wondered why AQD's involvement in towns nearest its headquarters has been pursued only recently. But just the same, she said, she and the people of Oton are just as happy as the other beneficiaries of AQD.

The ceremonial stocking of *kapis* shells in Trapiche, Oton had the most number of fishers attending. Enthusiastic fishers flocked around the lady mayor and AQD's project head Dan Baliao and listened how they could help bring back the abundance of *kapis* shells in Oton. Aware of the fisheries code and local legislations, Captain Pablo Guevarra, other DA officials and Mayor Flores explained how the breeding site will be protected from trawlers and intruders. The place, Mayor Flores said, will be declared a fish sanctuary and that other measures to ensure its protection will be implemented.

Mayor Flores also exhorted the fishers to do their share in protecting not only the *kapis* breeders but other coastal resources where they get their living. "There's not much left anymore of our coastal resources because of our negligence. Let's put our acts together to protect what is left until we eventually bring back the abundance of the marine resources that we used to enjoy."

The Oton town officials are still considering other aquaculture ventures that they will try with the help of AQD.

The *kapis* breeders that the two towns have stocked in their coastal waters come from AQD's research laboratories. AQD started breeding the *kapis* shell (*Placuna placenta*) in the early '90s. ###

## Dumangas: site of SEAFDEC/AQD's newest pond facility

By **ET Aldon**

Being chosen as the site of AQD's Brackishwater Station is said to be the best thing that ever happened to Dumangas. This was according to Mayor Rolando Distura who recently received a certificate of appreciation from AQD for supporting its goals and objectives.

The LGU of Dumangas and AQD are currently collaborating on a catfish breeding and culture project.

Mayor Distura has also been encouraging his constituents who are oyster/mussel growers to use the AQD technology of growing oysters/mussels in floating rafts. He has noticed that the stake method currently being used is resulting in navigational and siltation problems along the Dumangas coastline.

Mayor Distura's concerns on the environment is also evident in his continuous push for community-based coastal resource management. ###

*AQD's vision of reengineering the intensive shrimp pond to become an essentially zero discharge system will be first tested in its Dumangas ponds. AQD will use a series of biological filters -- seaweeds, molluscs, fishes -- to absorb most of the organic output of shrimp and recycle the pond water to reduce pressure on local resources*



*AQD celebrated the first year anniversary of its Dumangas Brackishwater Station on October 16 by honoring its collaborators, including Mayor Rolando Distura of Dumangas*

