

## ORGANIC AQUACULTURE IN HUNGARY AND VIETNAM: CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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### Abstract

Organic farming is an emerging sector of aquaculture of which expansion is expected in the future based on the growing health and environment consciousness of the consumers. Freshwater pond fish farming – which is dominant type of aquaculture both in Hungary and Vietnam - offers ideal conditions for the introduction of organic farming. Even if products from extensive fish farms that are produced in natural conditions are believed to be organic, only those products can be considered organic that are produced according to a specific standard and certified by an approved organisation. The standard for organic fish production was elaborated in 2001 in Hungary, and there are some 8 farms in the country, which have been producing organic fish (mainly common carp, Chinese carps, pike-perch, pike and European catfish) since then. There is a large area in Hungary, which, after the required transition period from conventional to organic use reached around 6000 ha, however only a small part of the area is used for organic production mainly due to market limitations. The volume of organic fish production in Hungary is below 1000 tons, which is less than 5% of the total aquaculture production of market size fish. There is a scope to increase organic fish production in Hungary taking also into account export possibilities even if organic fish market will continue to be a niche market in the future. There have been continuous efforts in Hungary to improve the production technology, processing and marketing of organic fish, of which results and experiences can be utilized well in Vietnam, where the potential for organic fish farming (mainly for export) has not been exploited yet.