Improver Programs for Smallholders

Introduction to the discussion panel

Shrimp Summit, Bali, June 2025



Certification/assurance systems help drive sustainable aquaculture by holding supply chains accountable to a set of specific standards







Certified / assured farms

- ~15% of the global shrimp production volumes are certified
- ~0.4% of the total number of farms are certified



Not certified farms

- ~85% of shrimp farms are not certified and have no market access
- 99.6% of global shrimp farms aren't certified
- Small farmers make up the majority of shrimp farms globally, and most are not certified



Markets

 Sourcing policy for many EU and US retailers requiring certified or assured supply chains

The GAP: most small farmers can't meet certification standards, and it is often not cost-competitive to certify small farmer clusters





Small farmers

- Make up the majority of the farming volume and number of players in Asia
- High rates of "informality"
- Traceability challenges
- No access to certification



Certification

- Reassures the market on supply chain responsibility
- Access to US and EU markets
- Not tailored for small farmers



Markets

 Requests supply chain for a certification or assurance-accredited product

Improver Programs bridge the gap between small farmers and international retailers' sourcing policies, creating a path to certification











Small farmers

- Make up the majority of the farming volume and number of players in Asia
- High rates of "informality"
- Traceability challenges
- No access to certification

Improver Programs

- Support small farmers in preparing for certification or assurance systems
- Improve farm sustainability, facilitate market access, and incentivize continuous improvement

Certification

- Reassures the market on supply chain responsibility
- Access to US and EU markets
- Not tailored for small farmers

Markets

- Requests supply chain for a certification or assurance-accredited product
- Some retailers accept shrimp from Improver Programs