



March 27, 2006

The University of Oklahoma is pleased to announce that the institute on fish farming and related aquaculture topics sponsored by the University of Oklahoma will be held May 15-19, 2006.

The training will take place near New Orleans, Louisiana, May 15 -19, 2006, at the Rosaryville Spirit Life Center in Ponchatoula, Louisiana. This training is in response to the long-term objectives of the Public Service Institute to reduce poverty by increasing the choices in dietary protein for the poor, and to encourage the expansion of fish farming enterprises.

We are prepared to accommodate one team of two to four individuals from each country, up to 10 teams. Participants' skills will range from marketing and business to aquaculture and knowledge of fish farming. Our objective is that each team will be equipped to establish or enhance an enterprise in their country. Collaboration and technical assistance from members of the instructional team and their respective institutions will continue to be available to the participants after the institute.

- 1) Each country will be responsible for their team's **travel expenses** to the training site and their return trip.
- 2) The institute will be responsible **for lodging at the training site, meals during sessions, training materials and instruction** - at no cost to participants or their host nations.

Through our research, we have learned the following:

- Population growth is challenging our ability to produce sufficient quantities of protein to match expected population increases;
- Aquaculture is the only alternative to continued depletion of natural fisheries because we have reached capacity and increases in capture fishing are not expected;
- Aquaculture must double within the next 15 years in order to keep pace with demands for food resulting from population growth;
- Farmed fish is a major way to increase protein;
- Failures in aquaculture are most often linked to unsustainable development, poor practices and improper farm management.

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By introducing sustainable aquaculture practices to interested parties, increasing or improving on existing fish farming operations, we strongly believe that we can:

- Reduce poverty by creating employment opportunities that may not exist;
- Increase the range of choices in protein sources;
- Encourage sustainable production practices and skills among trainees;
- Improve business practices tailored to local settings.

We are aware that there are experienced fish farming and aquaculture operations in many countries. Our intent is to build on these strengths and attempt, in some modest way, to help improve on current practices by sharing new or existing information.

The goal of the University is to encourage interest and generate activity leading to a reassessment of resources and practices which will increase the production of farmed products. We will conduct a practical institute at a commercial fish farm in the state of Louisiana, followed by informal sessions that combine structured presentations with hands-on applications. By the end of the institute, each participant will:

- Have a clear understanding of the scientific approaches necessary to successfully breed, hatch, raise and market tilapia fish;
- Acquire a better understanding of other types of fish farming including raising fresh-water shrimp;
- Understand the importance of water systems, temperature, chemical levels and other critical water issues associated with fish farming;
- Know the types of food needed to successfully raise fish from birth to maturity and why food types are selected for farming;
- Have examined water filtering systems and understand how they operate and why these systems are so critical to raising healthy fish;
- Be provided with information that will assist in using fish emulsions and water for hydroponics in growing vegetables and other plants;
- Be able to network with successful fish farming professors who are conducting state-of-the-art research in fish farming;
- Become a member of a network of participants who will share experiences and knowledge resulting from practices introduced as a result of the institute.

The faculty will include:

Dr. Dallas Alston, University of Puerto Rico  
 Mr. Richard Thompson, Caribbean Fish Farms  
 Mr. Andrew Magloire, Department of Agriculture, Dominica  
 Mr. Steve Abernathy, President and Chief Operating Officer of Tiltech Farms, Louisiana  
 Dr. Arthur Cole, University of Oklahoma

Please contact Dr. Arthur Cole for further information.

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