Value-chain arrangements and the business case for certification

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the sustainable trade initiative

Mainstreaming Sustainable Trade for development impact

- Public private partnership facility
- Funded by Dutch, Swiss and Danish ODA
- Impact on MDGs1,7 and 8 and PSD
- 18 commodity chains in 50 countries
- 300 companies
- 30 international NGOs
- 130 M euro investment capital





How we work



IDH Programs















Cocoa

Теа

Tropical Timber Soy

Aquaculture

ure

Cotton

Electronics

Palm Oil

Natural Stone



Coffee



Cashew



Fruits & Flowers Vegetables



S Spices



Tourism



Mining



Why aqua certification

- Government failure?
- Market failure to include externalities?
- Makes info available
- Verifies suppliers' performance
- Facilitate international trade
- Stimulates traceability



In this presentation

- Voluntary. Not "legal access" to a market
- International schemes (e.g. ASC)
- National Schemes (e.g. VietGAP)
- Certification ≠ Sustainability
- Different cases
 - Product for export exported
 - Product for export consumed domestically
 - Domestic product



Value-chain arrangements





Aqua certification: retailers & traders

Retailer	Trader
 Quality products, reduced risk Proof of commitment Build trust with clients Supply chain resiliency Transparency and traceability Right assortment for different customers 	
 Comply to sustainability targets 	 Market access



Aqua certification: processors & farmers

Processor	Farmer
 Market access Premium A way to attract external support 	
 Proof of commitment Build trust with clients Right assortment for different customers 	 Respond to buyers' demand (and hope for the best) Improved production?







Co-founding traders:



Construction of the ASC organization



Some lessons learnt

- Key
 - Demand for ASC products
 - Awareness among producers
- Traders key to set up the program
- Often producers (processors/farms) prefer "independence"
- Need broad stakeholder cooperation/support



Results

• ≈ 20% production ASC certified in 1.5 years!



What about the other 80%???





CBI Ministry of Foreign Affairs The Netherlands

ASC pangasius market study



- Interest in sustainability certification differs by country
- Sustainability certification in Italy and Spain may improve the image of pangasius and contribute to recapture market share
- Negative impact of increased cost price of pangasius
- Pangasius as sustainable fish and comparable to MSC whitefish
- The height of the premium depends on the degree to which the costs can be passed on to consumers
- ASC may play a role to reposition pangasius, but at the end of the day it is primarily about market access (and likely very little on premiums)



Pangasius increasingly sold to "non-ASC" markets



PANGASIUS EXPORT MARKETS IN IN JAN - APR, 2013 (Value)





Certification brings benefits... but at a cost



Often farmers pay the costs & other stakeholders get the benefits: expected, but costs/benefits can be more balanced?



APFIC, 2007

ASC pangasius business case



Non-certified farm ASC certification

- Sacrifice 10% pond for sedimentation
- Increase productivity by 15%
- 30% → 20% mortality
- Structure + certification investment
- 5% premium price
- Annual certification costs
- Productivity 1, Juvenile costs 1, feed costs 1, certification 1, investment 1, price 1



Is there a real business case?



Accelerate shrimp farmers transition towards more responsible farming practices

115,000 tons by 2015



Focus on addressing impacts

- International scheme
 - Compliance
 - Address key bottlenecks: feed, mangroves/ecosystem benefits
- National scheme
 - -value-chain approach
- BMP approach
- Domestic market
- National Dialogue



What about the domestic market?

- Study in central Vietnam (IMOLA/FAO)
 - Focused on shrimp
- BMP/National scheme
- Market
 - Retailers
 - Local market
- No premiums
- Food safety focus

...but things are changing!



VIET SIN²

VIENA







How important is aquaculture certification?





Lessons learnt from other sectors

- International standards
 - Heavily subsidized
 - Seldom include productivity (incentives?)
- National standards
 - Increasingly recognised
 - Consider productivity more strongly





Target (2015) 25 % sold globally verified/certified 40% produced globally verified/certified



Key questions (panel discussion)

- Are international standards the target?
- Can certification help improve a product's image (and access to markets)?
- Can a value-chain approach be used for national standards and domestic market?
- Why the market buy-in for national schemes is still so small?
- Is food safety-based certification the right leverage to improve "sustainability"?

