

Successful Production of Organic Shrimp Farmed in Brazil.

Clélio S. da Fonseca
Aquacrusta Marinha Ltda
clelioshrimp@bioaquacrusta.com

Aquaculture is rapidly growing worldwide and all its different forms are certainly accompanying this trend. Organic Aquaculture, in particular, has followed this market and philosophical movement, justified by the strong marketing appeal concerning the environment and sustainable farming practices. The organic system of shrimp production has as one of its origins the Greenaqua Project Ltd, an initiative of GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation) and Naturland GmbH of Germany in 1999. Therefore, it is relatively new and still basic as to the aspects of sustainable production. Organic shrimp originated as a direct response to a number of events that led to the various production crises of marine shrimp, especially those related to the emergence of viral diseases in Asia and the Americas. Over the years, it established itself as an alternative model for producing a healthy and environmentally friendly food while maintaining its original technological platform almost intact up to the present moment. The global organic products industry is growing at an annual rate of 20% and has a turnover of \$ 20 billion dollars in world trade. Brazil is the fourth largest exporter of organic products and related raw materials. With such impressive numbers, the country is in condition to enter the organic shrimp international market, while alternatively having access to a large and promising internal market. The only thing missing is government policies, especially in regards to the legitimacy and legality of these products, that has prevented this sector to advance further in production and sustainability, which are dominant factors in the technological procedures and working philosophy required for this activity. The technology adopted by Brazil has very specific and unique characteristics, since the country has vast areas conducive to this model of production and a diversity of alternative raw materials of excellent quality that fit perfectly with the demands of biological production. Organic aquaculture is based upon a total management system of production in order to promote and enhance the health of their products and of the environment, preserving biodiversity, production cycles and biological activities of the environment. Accordingly, organic shrimp farming emphasizes the use of management practices in opposition to the use of chemicals and synthetic elements that can change the original dynamics of the ecosystem explored. In this context, the standards for organic aquaculture production in Brazil were set in 2011 and describe the procedures to be followed, involving everything from production techniques, to environmental responsibilities inherent in the process and criteria for final product quality. The Brazilian model is governed by specific norms regarding environmental and social relations, which are very strict and are in accordance with international guidelines of the International Forum of Organic Associations and Movements – IFOAM, which guides organic production worldwide.