

Dear Sir:

This pertains to a message from NOAA and USDA posted on the Internet last month soliciting from the public any information and ideas on ways to lessen dependence on fish-based feeds for the aquaculture industry.

I am a Filipino citizen engaged in publishing an agribusiness magazine here in Manila. On the sideline, I am helping promote aquafeed products developed from nanotechnology by my Filipino scientist-friend.

As a foreigner, I am not really sure if your call for public comment only covers the American public and American citizen anywhere in the world, or does it include anybody anywhere, regardless of nationality, who just happened to get interested in your online invitation.

In any case, if you have a keen interest in making sure that aquaculture production is efficient and environmentally responsible, I suggest your agency or USDA to do verification and field trial (for possible large-scale commercial application) of our organic feed products developed from nanotechnology.

They are organic in the sense that their main feed ingredients are dried pig and chicken manure obtained from local farms. These swine and poultry farms are not the conventional ones as we know them, though. What makes them distinct is they are using a patented feed premix in their animal ration whose vitamin and mineral content had been developed by my colleague also using molecular engineering and nanotechnology.

To my knowledge, nanotech is already widely used in more advanced countries like US, Japan, and Europe for various industrial applications. They are even used in the field of nutraceuticals, cancer research, pharmacy and medicine. But I am not sure if nanotech is already applied commercially in the area of animal health and aquaculture nutrition as we do now here in the Philippines.

If your group and USDA would conduct research, I therefore suggest your effort to be geared towards the verification and further field trial of our nano-based aquafeeds to see if they work in temperate water ecosystems like those in the United States.

(If you go upstream further, I may also suggest USDA animal researchers to try and study our nanotech-based animal feed mix to see their effects on US raised farm animals (pig, poultry, dairy and beef cattle, etc.) and experiment on their manure to see their potentials as aquafeeds.)

As a background, I wish to inform you that our products had been introduced in the local market only last year (2007). Patent registration is underway. To date, they are already being successfully used by some Filipino aquaculture farms in the central Philippine province of Iloilo, and in Luzon, notably in Bulacan, Pampanga, and Batangas. Species include tilapia, milkfish, and crustaceans like shrimp (vannamei) and black tiger prawn raised either monoculture or polyculture.

Initial results in the Philippines look promising - with yields on prawn and milkfish increasing by up to 30%, animal feed cost down 30% due to direct substitution of conventional animal feeds by up to 75%, and of course up to 30% increase in farmers' income.

But more than the economic benefits, the products also help nurture and rejuvenate nature because we were told they improve water ecosystem instead of pollute it especially if as a result of overfeeding.

Aquaculture farmers using the organic feeds claim the products also promote algal growth, planktons and other microorganisms important in the aqua food chain, thus contributing to the sustainability of marine flora and fauna.

For trial orders and additional details, please contact us at xxx.

Yours truly,

Fermin M. Diaz
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