



The U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) began its aquaculture program in India in the year 2004 in order to help develop and upgrade the Indian aquaculture industry in terms of modernization and bringing in more efficiency. Putting in place a win-win situation, USSEC has guided the industry towards creating significant aquatic environmental benefits by reducing organic inputs in the form of mash feeds to the tune of 1.8 million tons. It is believed that more of the industry will transform and contribute to this benefit by way of modernizing their operations in future.

USSEC thus identified and took up the feed segment as a first entity that required change. Successes have come in because the industry and government and have been very receptive to imbibe modern feed technologies. As a result, the country has grown its fish feed milling capacity to a level of 1.3 million tons / annum. With good feed milling capabilities in place, some newer avenues that can be supported are the use of better feed taking species, adoption of new aquaculture systems like the cages, possibly manufacture high quality feeds for marine species and thereby develop marine fish culture. Through all the above interventions, USSEC also stands to gain from this development in the form of additional soy meal used in high quality feeds.

USSEC India Aquaculture initiatives continue to be operational to see what further developments can be demonstrated to the Industry, especially from its global experiences. Some of the thrust areas that the organization wants to focus are: 1) popularizing technologies on new aquaculture species 2) diversifying aquaculture farming systems 3) value addition of end products 4) better marketing systems 5) demand building for feed in order to utilize the excess capacities of feed mill investments 6) water re-use systems and 7) methods to increase fish protein consumption. USSEC aquaculture also believes in assessing industry trends from time to time and advising all stakeholders on future pathways to be taken for better progress. USSEC's country specific programs as well as its worldwide projects offer a great global package of experience and flagships that India could use. It believes in demonstrating and exchanging this experience with all aquaculture regions in the world, so one need not re-invent the wheel.

The Indian Aquaculture industry and the Government has been a great partner to work with especially with its prominent global status in aquaculture. With its total annual feed milling capacity of 2.88 million tons (fish + shrimp), USSEC thinks there are more opportunities that the country can examine and use for the development of this sector. USSEC It looks forward to more productive exciting times with all stakeholders of the industry and wishes the best of successes in years to come ■



Contact us for more information or interactions:

- **Dr. P.E. Vijay Anand,** (Director – India Animal feed, Aquaculture and Soy meal Program) vanand@ct.ussec.org
- **Mr. R. Umakanth,** (Consultant – India Aquaculture Program) rumakanth@ct.ussec.org