

SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE in TURKEY

-A SUCCESS STORY-

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The global food system is likely to experience intense pressure by several factors in the coming years, such as increased middle class population, exploited fisheries, obesity, more awareness of healthy and sustainable food etc. Fish farming can and will be a response to all this pressure. World capture fish production has showed no growth since 1990's. However, aquaculture has developed to become the fastest-growing food industry in the world.

Ranked 16th in the world economies with 800 billion dollar GDP, Turkey is one of the most-promising emerging markets. Surrounded by three seas and with rich inland waters, Turkey has a significant capture fishery and aquaculture potential. During the last decade, fish farming industry in Turkey achieved a noticeable growth. The three major species cultivated are rainbow trout, Mediterranean seabass and seabream.

In Turkey, aquaculture companies run full traceability systems that cover the full production process from juveniles to marketing. Turkish feed industry is focusing more on R&D studies and embracing innovation for sustainable aquaculture development. Off-shore aquaculture has gained significant momentum as a Turkish fish-farming development strategy. In brief, the fish farming industry is successfully adopting new technologies which support traceability and sustainability. Owing to its delicious, healthy and high-quality fish products, Turkey exports fish to more than 50 countries, where Europe is the biggest market. Growth in the Turkish economy in recent years has also resulted in an increased domestic demand for fish.

Turkey is a market of new opportunities and it is clear that Turkish fish farming industry will become more innovative, more competitive, and continue its strong growth in the years to come.