

FROM THE FARM



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UT XI Aquatic Products Processing Corporation: the farmers' experience

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Nha Nguyen, Deputy Director,
UT XI Aquatic Products Processing Corporation

The UT XI Aquaculture Farm is in Tong Cang Village, in the Soc Trang Province of Vietnam, by the My Thanh River. The 10ha shrimp farm achieved ASC certification in June 2015. Nha Nguyen, Deputy Director, explains how the farm has improved its operations and reduced its environmental and social impacts to create a stable business for the future.

Why we chose ASC certification? ASC certification matches our business ethos. It ensures businesses care for the environment and are accountable to the community. We live in this community and want our families to grow up here. We must ensure we protect this environment to protect our future and the community's future.

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By meeting the requirements of the ASC standard we are minimising negative environmental impacts and improving conditions for our employees and the community.

Our customers not only want a quality product but they also want assurance that the products they are buying are responsibly produced; they want to know that as producers we are meeting strict environmental and social standards. Through ASC certification we can provide those assurances.

What makes us different? We ensure we remain accountable for our activities. We work with our community and contribute to aquatic sustainable development. It is fundamental that we protect our future, our business and our environment and to do this we must build on our experiences, share our knowledge and work together.

Reducing negative impacts on the environment

In our farming we make sure we pay proper attention to the environment and ecology. For example, two hectares of the farm is used to develop and restore the ecology of the riverside.

Environmental Impact Assessments allow us to gain a better understanding of the local ecosystems, their needs and the most important aspects. This provides us with the information we need so we can plan the necessary developments for our operation to make sure we work in a way that is sensitive to the environment and minimises any



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potential impacts to the biodiversity of our surroundings. All of our Environmental Impacts Statements are available for public scrutiny.

We have wharf, road and waterway transport. So, to ensure we protect riparian areas against impacts we have a natural habitat regeneration policy in place. It is essential that we fully understand the ecology of the mangrove environment so we can restore hydrology and other environmental conditions.

Our water management system ensures that waste water is treated before it is discharged into the environment. In addition, health plans address the management of pathogens to prevent disease. For example, we have effluent filtration systems and systems to detect and prevent pathogens.

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Supporting employees and the local community

UT XI helps contribute to the economic stability in the region. We do this by using local services and providing employment on our farm and in processing workshops for 1000s of local people in Soc Trang Province.

We commissioned a participatory social impact assessment and shared the results with local communities. As part of this, we continue to work with local communities and have in place a system for resolving any conflicts. We also contribute annually to a local welfare programme, which supports the cost of building bridges and repairing the roads, this ensures we have a good infrastructure across the region.

What responsible management brings A responsibly managed operation helps provide future security. It leads to positive benefits for the farm, in terms of increased productivity and improved quality for the longer term, and an increased income and improved environment for employees as well as the surrounding communities.

What would you say to someone who is thinking of applying for ASC certification? They should certainly apply for ASC certification. The ASC standard has science-based requirements; it also brings transparency and increases market access. The cost is off-set by the savings and gains you make, including price. Above all, compliance with ASC requirements moves you towards a sustainable production.

For the future We will continue to improve our operations through ASC certification and encourage other farmers to seek certification. This will lead to a greater reduction in negative environmental and social impacts in the region as more farms meet the ASC Shrimp Standard's requirements.