

An open letter to stakeholders from the Global Aquaculture Alliance on “**VietGAP THE NATIONAL STANDARD FOR GOOD AQUACULTURE PRACTICE AND APPLICATION OF VIETGAP FOR PANGASIUS, TIGER SHRIMP AND WHITE LEG SHRIMP FARMING IN VIETNAM**”

On July 5, 2011 the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of VietNam published, “**VietGAP THE NATIONAL STANDARD FOR GOOD AQUACULTURE PRACTICE AND APPLICATION OF VIETGAP FOR PANGASIUS, TIGER SHRIMP AND WHITE LEG SHRIMP FARMING IN VIETNAM**”. The scope of VietGAP covers: general requirements; food safety; animal health and welfare; environmental integrity and socio-economic aspects. The Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) applauds Vietnam for defining these good aquaculture practices for aquaculture enterprises to improve food safety, animal husbandry, environmental integrity and socio-economic concerns at the farm level. Furthermore, GAA hereby acknowledges the decision of MARD and the Directorate of Fisheries to make compliance with VietGAP mandatory for Pangasius producers in 2015 and for intensive shrimp farmers by 2020.

Given that compliance with VietGAP is mandatory, GAA further recognizes that this changes VietGAP from - a voluntary standard to a national regulation. As a global organization which promotes responsible aquaculture through its Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) program, GAA therefore supports VietGAP through Principle 1 of its Finfish and Crustacean Farms Standards, entitled **Community: Property Rights and Regulatory Compliance**. Additionally, GAA has started a benchmarking initiative with MARD, whereby each organization will review the other’s standards and inspection/audit procedures to explore opportunities for potential cooperation. GAA looks forward to completing this initiative by early 2015.

GAA envisions VietGAP as a foundation for aquaculture enterprises in Vietnam seeking certification under its BAP scheme. GAA is committed to working with MARD to help make this a reality and looks forward to further collaboration with the Vietnamese aquaculture sector in the future.

*GAA recently held their annual Global Outlook on Aquaculture Leadership (GOAL) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam this past October 7-10. On Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October a special event was held to “Celebrate Leadership in Vietnam’s Aquaculture Industry”. For more information please contact Steve Hedlund at [steven.hedlund@gaalliance.org](mailto:steven.hedlund@gaalliance.org).*