

Breeding programme and nationwide dissemination of novit 4 *Tilapia* in the Vietnam

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Key words: Tilapia, breeding, Gift tilapia production

Abstract

In Vietnam, tilapia is recently considering as an important culture species following catfish in freshwater. The first introduction of tilapia to Vietnam have been conducted long time ago, however, this species have really interested farmers and consumer after success of tilapia breeding program which have implemented since 1998 with Nile tilapia and its nationwide dissemination. For the last three years, the tilapia industry had increased clearly achievement from 7.653 metric tons in 2003 to 54.487 metric tons which contributed about 10% to total freshwater fish production in 2005.

Tilapia breeding program has based on 5th GIFT selected generation which introduced from Philippine in 1997 and RIA.1 has responsible in implementing the breeding program. After four selected generations, growth rate has been improved and suitable in our production systems, this strain has changed the name to NOVIT 4. There are a total 8 generations have been done with prospecting results in the end 2006. This species has sent to all provinces in Vietnam for replacing old tilapia breed available in the country. Replacing with the latest improved breed has also conducted every year to bring about targeted incremental production and provide opportunities to participate in global market for value-added products. The NOVIT 4 tilapia is a new breed develops by RIA.1, Akvaforsk Institute, Norway under supporting by the government and Norwegian government via NORAD project. Combining selection between and within families has been applied in this program to improved growth of *Oreochromis niloticus* in Vietnam.

To focus of this paper are on breeding results of breeding program and dissemination of NOVIT 4 in strategic areas nationwide. The dissemination strategies are that increase income and opportunity for poor communities as well as industrial market. Moreover, strategy to sustain breeding program for tilapia will be introduced as a lesson to supply improved breed of tilapia for farmer.

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