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Implications of multiple national certification standards for Thai shrimp aquaculture

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Abstract

The government of Thailand has developed a three national certification standards for shrimp aquaculture: CoC, GAP and GAP-7401. But while considerable effort has gone into their development their uptake has remained limited by shrimp farmers and in consumer markets. Using the Devil's Triangle framework, which highlights tradeoffs between accessibility, credibility and improvement, this paper examines the Thai government's rationale for developing three different national certification standards and compares this rationale with farmers' perceptions surrounding standard compliance. The findings demonstrate that different groups of farmers experience different tradeoffs between accessibility, credibility and improvement under each of the three standards. The paper concludes that improved coordination of these national certification standards could promote credible and inclusive step-wise improvement pathways for the Thai shrimp industry as a whole.

Keyword: Shrimp aquaculture, national certification, Thailand, certification development, credibility, accessibility, improvement

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