

# REQUEST FOR PRE-PROPOSALS

## Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture

### Due Date April 7, 2009

The Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) requests pre-proposals for aquaculture applied research that addresses problems and opportunities for the aquaculture industry in the CTSA region within the strategic areas defined below. Special emphasis will be given this year (CTSA Fiscal Year 2009) to the following priorities. Pre-proposals that target these priority issues will receive highest preference, although all pre-proposals from researchers are welcome and will be considered. **CTSA strongly encourages interagency cooperation and shared funding of priority projects.**

CTSA's mission is to support aquaculture research, development, demonstration, and extension education in order to enhance viable and profitable aquaculture in the United States. CTSA is funded by an annual grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. The CTSA region includes the following areas: American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

### **CTSA Strategic Areas and Fiscal Year 2009 Priorities**

#### **Rationale**

The aquaculture industry in Hawaii and the Pacific region is of extremely diverse species and resource limited owing to their island settlings. The majority of the industry is comprised of small stakeholders and family-owned operations with constraints of technical and financial resources. CTSA would like to examine small farms operating in a sustainable or near sustainable modality using recirculating systems serving their localized communities, with a focus on high valued unique species or niche markets. Important to this approach are projects that can provide new information in the following areas and are linked, from technical resources for species production, system development, and value added development, to marketing development. This approach can be replicated throughout Hawaii and the Pacific region.

#### **Species Development and Production**

Small-scale production farms will not have a very large amount of product to sell at any given time; thus, one wants the products to be of high value and highly desired.

- Products which fit the bill need to address local (ethnic) market "wants and tastes" (i.e., sea grapes, opihi, sea urchins, etc.)
- Intensive copepod production for marine finfish (i.e. sea bass/sea grouper) farming
- Saltwater tolerant tilapia

### **Systems Development**

Small-scale production requires tanks and ponds, which are recirculating, modular and integrated. The holding systems need to be capable of working with fresh or seawater and of sustaining variable biomass.

- Recirculating systems
- Modular units
- Integrated systems of aquaculture and plant crops, i.e. hydroponics/aquaponics.

### **Value Added Product Development**

Value added processing. Products going to market need not be in their native form (e.g., smoked flesh, fishcake, gourmet cooking/preparation would add more value to a product). We encourage this line of investigation to develop unique Hawaii brand products.

### **Marketing Development**

All products being produced must be marketed with a profitable return. A profit analysis of a potential commercial species before a full investment is necessary. It is also important to promote the awareness of fish farming to the general public for the further development of aquaculture. CTSA encourages any projects which can work together with other marketing programs at ADP, KCC, HTA, etc.

- Marketing study of a potential commercial species or product form
- Creation of aquaculture products for an aquafarmers' market day
- Niche market penetration for products – markets, restaurants, trade shows.

Projects, which could be linked together for the above four areas/priorities, will be given a higher consideration for funding support. All projects are encouraged to link into marketing with ADP, or in the case of Pacific island projects, to their local aquaculture agency marketing program.

CTSA will also continue to support projects which address FY 2008 priorities in the area of offshore aquaculture, health management, innovative aquaculture, and Pacific Island aquaculture development.

E-file MS word document to [pobryen@oceanicinstitute.org](mailto:pobryen@oceanicinstitute.org)  
by 5:00 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time, Tuesday, April 7, 2009.