Tilapia production

Global tilapia production grew by 3.3 percent in 2020 to top 6 million tonnes. It grew from around 3 million tonnes to over 6 million [since 2010] at a growth rate of just above 7 percent (Oct 6, 2020).

Although China remains the largest producer of farmed tilapia by far, harvesting roughly 1.7 million tonnes per year, its growth rate has slowed relative to other producing countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

China and Indonesia:- According to estimates based on the survey, China crossed the 1.8 million tonne mark in 2019 and had a small decline in 2020, but growth is expected in 2021.

Indonesia – the world’s second largest tilapia producer – saw a drop to around 900,000 tonnes in 2019, down from over 1.2 million the previous year.

Other Asian producers:- “The great success of Bangladesh –the sector was grown from a larger base it continues to grow. 38.9 percent growth rate – the highest growth rate we’ve had from any species so far.

Africa:- “Tilapia has been a runaway success in Egypt , continuing its growth rate at 8 percent, which is very strong. It seems there was some decline in 2019, but it’s certainly a sector that’s firmly above 1 million tonnes.

“The interesting thing in Africa is that there’s a lot of tilapia grown in other countries. But this group of others is a group that we should be looking at into the future with a strong growth rate of almost 16 percent.

Brazil:- Growth of Brazil’s tilapia sector meanwhile has mirrored the recent success of its shrimp sector. The Brazil had a good tilapia sector, growing from 150,000 to over 300,000 tonnes in the last decade, but now in the last few years it has grown to almost 500,000 and the expectation is that it will surpass 500,000 tonnes by 2021.

The rest of the Americas:- There’s good growth in a number of other region in South America – Columbia is doing well, almost 6 percent growth and continuing; Mexico also doing very well, 26 percent growth, and our survey data suggests that the FAO data might be too low and it’s close to being a 100,000 tonne sector soon. It’s a very good performance of tilapia in a select group of Latin American countries.

Production of Tilapia in Saudi arabia:- Nile tilapia (*[Oreochromis niloticus](http://www.fao.org/fi/website/FIRetrieveAction.do?dom=culturespecies&xml=Oreochromis_niloticus.xml)*) is the main freshwater fish cultured in the country with present production of 2 276 tonnes or about 20 percent of the total aquaculture production in 2004 (Fisheries Statistics, 2006). In the last 10 years, sabaki tilapia *Oreochromis spilurus*, a salt tolerant strain of tilapia was introduced from Kenya. This species is now bred and cultured in high saline waters of the Red Sea. The present production of *O. spilurus* is still very minimal at about 1 percent of the total aquaculture production in 2004 (Fisheries Statistics, 2008) and 1.5 percent in 2014. Evaluation of this marine species scored 370 tonnes which was 5.9 percent of the total tilapia production in the Kingdom. Freshwater tilapia production in 2014 was over 20 percent of the total aquaculture production for the year 2014.The Saudi National Strategy to step up production of aquaculture products to more than 600 thousand tons by 2030 has identified a number of species of cultured marine organisms of economic and market value, including tilapia fish,