



Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility

Delica-Sea: *Green Belizean Shrimp Attracts Premium Prices*

We already know that shrimp are scavengers and that their preferred food source is literally a waste.

But what if shrimp changed their diet?

What if you could buy shrimp who were as serious about their health as you are?

Belize shrimp farmers are rearing cleaner shrimp and 90% of the industry has received the coveted



Aquaculture Stewardship Certification that proves it! The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) runs a programme to transform the world's seafood markets and promote the best environmental and social aquaculture performance. Belize is the first and only country where more than 85% of its shrimp production is certified to the standards of the ASC. The certification seal signals that Belize's shrimp:

- Is free of antibiotics and pesticides
- Is free of artificially introduced and unrelated genetic material
- Are fed according to world class specific standards

It is also noteworthy that the benefits of adopting this global best practice extend beyond shrimp production. The ASC certification signals that Belize is now a regional leader in green economy as well. Farming shrimp under ASC standards significantly reduces environmental risks and enables Belizean shrimp farmers to improve and expand their business without degrading the environment.

Compete Caribbean collaborated with the Belize Shrimp Growers Association in 2014 and granted US\$500,000 for the cluster to pursue the ASC initiative. The project focused on increasing the visibility of Belizean branded shrimp around the world and on technical assistance to help farmers and other stakeholders improve their capacity to grow the industry post project.

The results achieved were these:

1. The shrimp product upgraded to a premium brand
2. Export sales doubled from 22M to 44.2M
3. 98% of the 22 million pounds of shrimp produced is exported and generates significant foreign exchange for the country.
4. Seasonal employment increased by 25%
5. Expanded the customer base to include the United Kingdom and France in 2015.

It is anticipated that the cluster will expand its reach in the USA, Canada and Europe by 2017.

Compete Caribbean is working to build the capacity of regional businesses to partner and compete in global markets.

Clusters management organisations across CARIFORUM are eligible and invited to apply to learn this technique. The technical assistance to adopt the cluster methodology will be paid for by the Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility. For more information, please visit our website at

www.competecaribbean.org