

## Session: Aquaculture in Eastern Europe 11 May 2006

# Multifunctional pond fish farming

#### Laszlo Varadi

Research Institute for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Irrigation (HAKI)
Szarvas, Hungary

#### DIVERSIFICATION OF POND FISH FARMING

Multifunctional extensive pond Fish production

Habitat

**Eco-tourism** 

Recreational fisheries



Pond farm

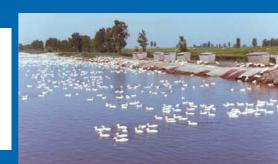
Semi-intensive pond low / medium value fish species)

Fish production

Natural feed

By-product

Low level machinery



**Intensive pond** (high value fish species)

Fish production

Special food

High level machinery



Source: L. Varadi, 2004

## FUNCTIONS OF THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL POND FARMING

Rural area

Environment protection (renewable source)

Rural area

Food production (technology)



Nature conservation (biodiversity)

Rural area

Recreation (angling, tourism)

Rural area

#### WHY MULTIFUNCTIONALITY?

- > Market constraints
- > Strict environmental regulations
- Limited and expensive water resources
- > Needs for recreational services
- > Special conditions in pond fish farms
- > Incentives and subsidies

## "Aranyponty" Fish Farm as an example of multifunctional pond fish farms



## I. Fish production

- Good quality fish for local and export markets
- Stocking material for angling clubs
- Organic fish for local markets and export
- R&D activity

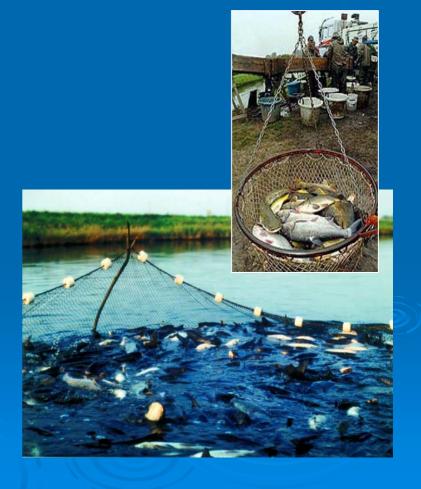


## I. Fish production





## Fish harvesting







#### Utilisation of "renewable" energy resources

- > Thermal water (30 °C, 400 m)
  - Heating
  - Greenhouse
  - Winter angling
  - Wellness center









### Utilisation of renewable energy resources

- Water energy
  - Micro hydroelectric power station
- Wind energy
  - Usage of windmills for water pumps, water aeration, production of electricity



Utilization of renewable resources

- Reed utilization
  - 40-70.000 sheaf yearly
  - Roof, reed-drape, other ornamental



## III. Services for anglers

- The angling centre of the farm provides various options for the visiting anglers
- Recreational facilities are also available for visitors
- Organizing angling competitions



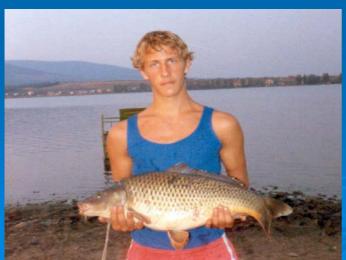
## III. Services for anglers

- Angling center Örspuszta
  - Building of special ponds
  - Recreational park, playground, camping
  - Complex service (buffet, bait shop, bathrooms, closed parking, accommodation, bicycle rental, etc.)



## III. Services for anglers



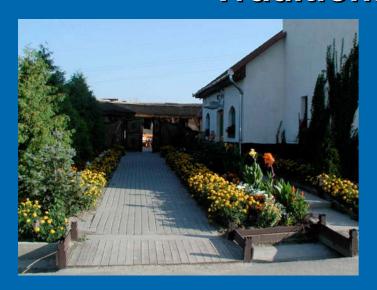






- Bird watching (220 species, among them 181 are protected)
- Excursions in the area
- Fishermen's pub and wine cellar
- Small hotel and guest houses
- Recreational facilities
- Spa with medicated hot water
- Wellness centre

### Traditional fish restaurant













#### Training, demonstration, meetings

- Fisheries heritage (fisheries museum)
- Conference and social events
- Training programs
  - on wildlife and nature
  - on fisheries and aquaculture
  - on the use of natural materials



#### **Fisheries museum**

- Wetland school and exhibition pond
- Scouting routes



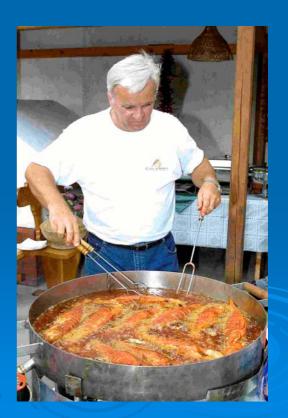




#### Festivals and fairs

- "Season opening fish festival"
- "Saint Peter's day festival"
- "Wetland fair"

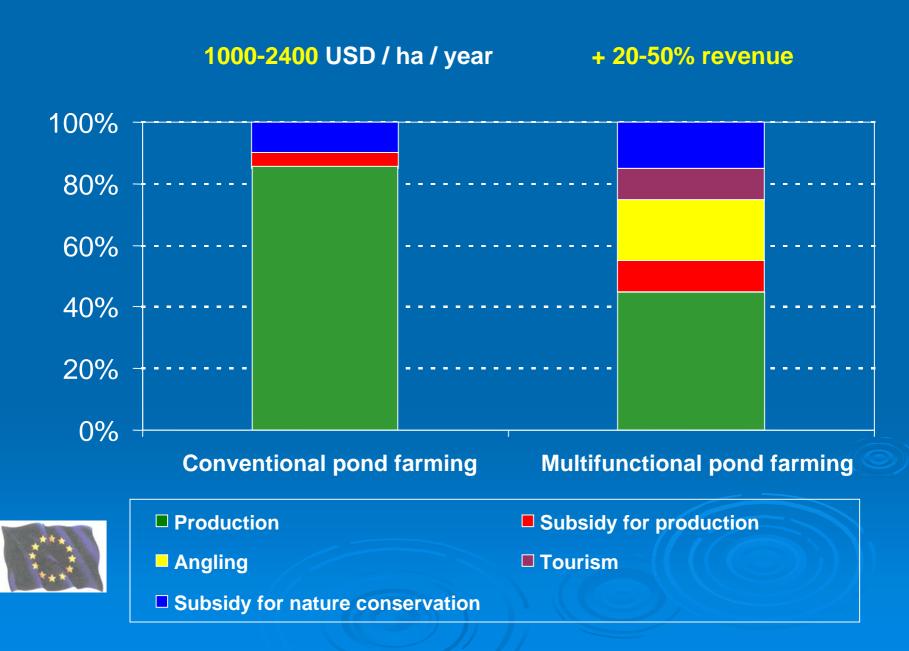




## MAIN ADVANTAGES AND BENEFITS OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL POND FARMING

- Better economic stability due to diverse farm activities
- Additional incomes from various services (for tourists and anglers)
- Increasing employment in rural areas
- Access to financial support given to environmental-friendly farming
- Opportunity for organic farming
- Improved image of the farm

#### STRUCTURE OF THE FARM REVENUE



## MAIN CONSTRAINTS AND DIFFICULTIES OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL POND FARMING

- The establishment of a multifunctional farm needs complementary investment
- The management of the complex farm requires special skills
- Service providing is completely different from farming
- The minimum farm size should be relatively large and consist of several ponds
- The farm should be located in an attractive and valuable natural area, nearby cities

## FUTURE TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL POND FARMING

- The natural value will increase further (Sensitive area, wetland habitats, agri-environmental program)
- Angling continue to be popular, and offer good business opportunities
- Organic fish market is growing, though remains limited
- Environment-friendly production is subject to financial support (subsidies, e.g. European Aquaculture Fund 2007-2013)
- Environmental and nature conservation regulations on farming will be more strict

