

## ZEKİ ŞEREMET

1. Tell us what you think about the current status of aquaculture in your area  
*Aquaculture sector is very important for the society; nutrition, employment and export. By the way there are many problems need urgent solutions for the sustainable production in aquaculture.*
2. Are you aware of the current legal framework for aquaculture?  
*Yes*
3. What characteristics do you think (environmental, geographical, morphological) favor aquaculture in the area?  
*My farm located on one of the main rivers (Değirmendere) feed by cold waters of the highlands which create good environment for hatchery production, nursery and on-growing of fish. Unfortunately implementation of several hydroelectric power plants upstream area have credit very serious impacts on the farms; reduction of water quality in rivers, pollution due to cements use in the construction process of the premises and reduction of upstream migration of native trout species living in the riverine ecosystem.*
4. How many years have you been active in aquaculture activities?  
*Since 1995*
5. What is the legal form of your business?  
*Limited Company*
6. What cultured species will someone find when visiting your business?  
*Rainbow trout*
7. Do you produce fish fry or shellfish spat?  
*Only fish fry. Trout egg production is 38 millions per year for rainbow trout and 5 millions for Blacksea salmon. Fry production is 20 millions per year.*
8. Do you export any species?  
*No*
9. How many kilos of each species do you breed every year?  
*100-249 tons per year*
10. How much does each species cost per kilo?  
*I only produced fish fry. 15 TL per kg fish fry and 25-30 TL per kg for 200-250 g fish.*
11. Do you prefer retail or wholesale?  
*Both. Also we serve some amounted fish in our restaurant.*
12. How much does veterinary care of the species produced cost per year ?(eg.vaccines)  
*Less than 1 percent of total cost*
13. What is the total of your operational costs, per month?  
*78 percent of total cost*
14. What is the total of your staff costs, per month?  
*Less than 10 percent of total cost*
15. Are you aware of any available financial tools, either national or European, for the aquaculture sector?  
*Yes*
16. Have you benefited from a financing tool?  
*Yes; mainly by using fishery loans from Agricultural bank, Turkish Development Agency (for investment) and support premiums of the ministry*
17. Tell us the main problems you face
  - *High bureaucracy,*

- *long period and unfair justice system in case of conflicts between companies and others who created serious fish deaths/ losses due to several reasons,*
- *Unfair completion between producers*
- *Hydroelectric power plants and their impacts on farms*
- *Promotion of import fish (Norwegian Salmon) in mass media*

18. How do you think these problems will be solved?

*New policies is needed to promote and increase domestic production. Import taxes should be higher than the current levels to protect domestic fish farmers.*

19. Tell us some suggestions for the development and further expansion of aquaculture in the region

*Export potential of rainbow trout is very high in global market. Fish farmers in the region have also sufficient company dynamics flexibility to adopt themselves faster than any of the other agricultural sub sectors. Aquatic resources as inland waters and marine areas are very high to increase aquaculture production. Therefore new fish farm side should be allocated and existent capacity extensions should be permitted without any bureaucratic restrictions. By this way fish farming industry would be very useful to provide more fish production for the nutrition of citizens, to decrease unemployment and obtain more foreign currency both for local and national economy.*

20. Good practices and malpractice in the sector

*Good practices are the dynamic structure of the companies involved in aquaculture business, young generation operating these companies and support of local Chamber of Trade and Industry, and Exporters Union. Malpractices are loss of fish and reduced growth rate of fish due to lower quality fish feed in some cases and insufficient fish fry production due to lack of hatcheries. Another malpractice is hydroelectric power plants in the region where they located (which their impacts has started from the implementation till operational phase and their combined effects due to installations of many on the same river system.*

21. Are you satisfied with your income? If the top score is 10 (completely satisfied), what score would be suitable for the financial output of your business?

*Not at all. (6)*

22. What is the current value of your company?

*About 44 millions TL*