

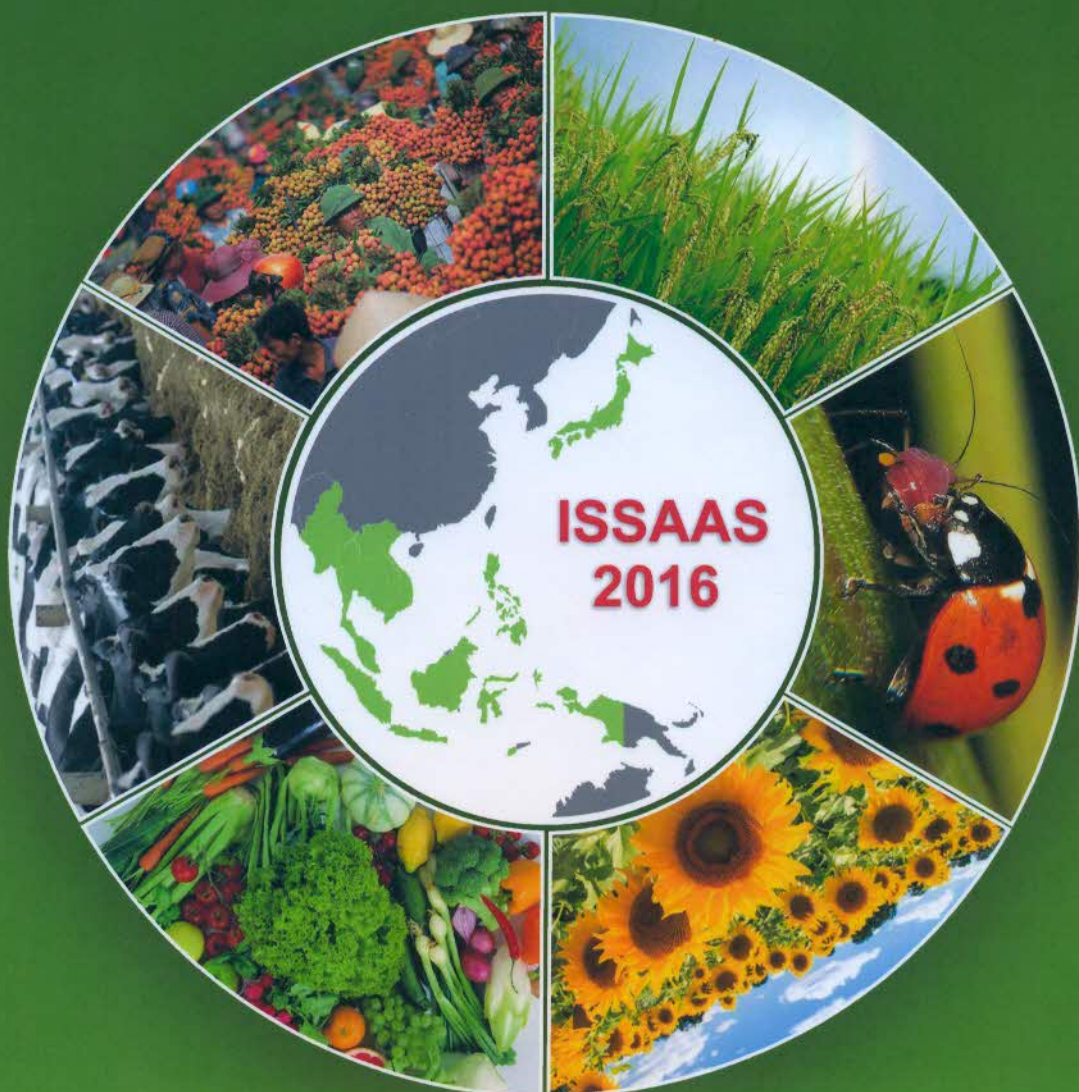


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THE PARADOXES OF CLAM FARMING IN THAIBINH PROVINCE, VIETNAM

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The Thaibinh province has the largest clam farming area and production among coastal provinces in North Vietnam. In the period of 2006-2011, clam was considered as a "golden" farming activity in this area. However, after this period, the farmers had to experience a very hard conditions with many shocks happened in clam farming. Based on data collected from focus group discussions and household survey in three communes located along Thaibinh coastal line for the period 2006-2014, this study applied mix-method analysis to define the highlight issues happened in clam farming in this area. The research results showed several paradoxes had existed in the sectors, which partly exacerbated the situation, namely (1) the farmers had to suffer high risk in clam farming but almost of those risk was "man-made"; (2) the farmer kept increasing the clam juvenile cost while the more the increase was, the less effective it was; and (3) women had less voice in decision making, but were more vulnerable. The origins of those paradoxes were the special characteristics of clam farming, but it does not mean that it couldn't be change. In order to mitigate the vulnerability for the clam farmers, there are some actions need to be carry out, including (1) the interventions of local government to diminish the impacts of polluted water sources; (2) providing more useful training course to broaden the knowledge of clam farmers; and (3), enhancing the role of women in making decision process as well as improving working conditions for them.

Keywords: *paradoxes, clam farming, coastal aquaculture, Thaibinh, Vietnam*