

Aquaponics

International Guest Speaker

PCA Conference July 28-31

Dr. Nick Savidov is a Senior Research Scientist with Bio-Industrial Opportunities Branch in Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Canada.

He is an internationally recognised expert in advanced aquaponics systems for commercial production.

His system design produces no waste, solid or liquid, and it has been adopted for commercial use in Western Sydney.

In Melbourne he will discuss design improvements including aerobic bio-digestion to recover nutrients and water, full automation, and more efficient oxygenation.

Aquaponics is an example of multi-trophic food production system where fish manure is microbially converted into plant nutrients and plants remediate the water through absorption of minerals prior to returning the water to fish.

Aquaponics represents an artificial ecosystem, where each component works synergistically to produce food with minimal water inputs and nutrients recycling and does so with minimal environmental impact.

The technology has been gaining a considerable public interest in the recent years.

The major areas of improvement include solids capture system, bio-mineralisation processes and oxygen delivery system.

Yields are comparable with commercial hydroponic operations, which do not have additional stream revenue from fish sales.

Organic certification of aquaponics operations remains a future opportunity.



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