



Australia: Cell Aquaculture exports barramundi to Europe

08 March, 2006 - AUSTRALIAN Barramundi farmer Cell Aquaculture has shipped its first batch of barramundi to its new operations in the Netherlands as part of the company's plans to expand internationally, The Age has reported.

Yesterday, Cell Aquaculture said it successfully shipped the barramundi fingerlings from its Australian hatchery to its joint venture production plant in Tolbert, in the Netherlands.

The West Australian-based firm said the barramundi arrived with a "nil mortality rate" under its 'hatch to dispatch' programme.

"This ... provides yet another solid foundation block towards delivering our goal to internationally expand our unique 'hatch to dispatch' offerings to grow high-quality premium fish on the doorstep of major world markets in a controlled, land-based, environmentally sustainable manner," Cell Aquaculture chairman Robert Sewell reportedly said.

The Holland-based facility will use new technology and equipment to raise 50 tonnes of fish per annum in a controlled environment.

Mr Sewell said under the joint venture, the Dutch operations will act as a display facility in the hope of developing further into the European market.

He said initial sales of Australian barramundi to the European market are scheduled in the third quarter of 2006, as expected.

The company, which listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in July last year, said it hopes to develop more European facilities in the United Kingdom and Spain.

It has also expressed interest in supplying barramundi to the United States and Asia.

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