



AQASEM09

**ASEM Aquaculture Platform
Strengthening the impact of the ASEM Aquaculture Platform:
the bridge between Asian and European aquaculture**

The Challenge

ASEM-Aq09 builds on the outputs of the ASEM Aquaculture Platform, established in 2003 as an EU-Asia framework for dialogue, networking and continuing coordination for sustainable aquaculture development, targeting key topics such as 'Disease & Health management', 'Biodiversity & Ecological impacts', 'Breeding & Domestication', 'Education', 'Food safety & Legislation', 'Food Security'. AQASEM09 wishes to reconcile Europe's and Asia's future directions in research, production and trade, focussing on following key areas: BMPs (Better Management Practices), integrated ecosystem based production (Multi-Trophic Aquaculture), community engagement, certification, and aquatic health management, together with education, training and communication. Through its diverse stakeholders it aims to reconcile ecological, social and economic demands and introduce or consolidate practical concepts of sustainability in the sector in both regions. Its objectives address the Millennium Development Goals of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and ensuring environmental sustainability.

In recent decades, European aquaculture technology has become the most advanced in the world, and scientific and commercial interactions between Europe and Asia have been a key feature of the sector's evolution. As demands rise and resource and market conflicts become more critical, these linkages will become even more important for European and Asian aquaculture and their broader economies. A successful future based on sustainable aquaculture cannot be achieved if mutual interests are ignored.

Project Objective

The primary aims of 'AQASEM' are:

To establish a strong, goal-defined and well-communicated platform, a Community of Practice, which formulates and applies mutually, agreed research and innovation targets in support of sustainable aquaculture;

To engage more widely with sector stakeholders to establish a common science and technology agenda and approach, with specific targets and performance indicators, through which the sector can progress in meeting sustainable development.

Key Points

- Formalising the link between the Asian and European aquaculture industry

EATiP Thematic Area of Relevance

- TA1:** Product Quality, Consumer Safety and Health
- TA2:** Technology and Systems
- TA3:** Managing the Biological Lifecycle
- TA4:** Sustainable Feed Production
- TA5:** Integration with the Environment
- TA6:** Knowledge Management
- TA7:** Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare
- TA8:** Socio-Economics and Management

Key Words

EU-Asia framework for dialogue, community of practice: sustainable aquaculture, BMPs, integrated ecosystem based production, community engagement, certification, aquatic health management, education, training, communication

Project Information

Contract number:

245020

Contract type:

Coordination (or networking) actions

Research area:

KBBE - Consolidate alliances with Asia in the field of aquaculture

Duration:

30 months (01/09/2009–29/02/2012)

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- Validating workshop outcomes, with particular emphasis on strengthening opportunities for small producers and vulnerable stakeholder groups in Asia
- Harmonising research aims and stimulate technology and market innovation in both regions, linked with a common research agenda building value from the advanced research position of the EU
- Supporting the harmonisation of Asian aquaculture education and assess strengths and limitations against the sector's R&D needs
- Exchanging technological innovations and strengthen cooperation in complementary initiatives by cross-linking between European and Asian networks & organisations
- Engaging with, widen and strengthen communication with society-at-large concerning features, issues and objectives of a framework for sustainable aquaculture

Key New Knowledge Expected

- Awareness in Europe on the advantages of Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture by featuring successful examples from China
- Through its workshop on 'Empowering vulnerable stakeholders' ASEM Aquaculture Platform will provide opportunities to participants to increase knowledge and skills in gender analysis and integrating gender issues in aquaculture research and program planning.
- Partnerships between Asia and Europe to work together on aquaculture certification and aquatic animal health issues of common interest and concern to both regions
- Exchange schemes between Asian & European aquaculture education
- Improved flow of information between EU and Asia (= horizontal communication) and from ASEM platform to major aquaculture stakeholders including society-at-large (= vertical communication) through:
 - e-newsletters and discussion lists (education, health management);
 - web based structured sources of information (education database, aquatic animal health resources);
 - workshop and conference outcomes;
 - roadmaps for strengthening joint efforts.

Potential Impacts



Policy

- The common denominator of these activities is the concerted effort to initiate synergetic (EU-Asia) processes that have impact on research excellence, good governance, fair trade, social equity and sustainability in aquaculture.
- ASEM Aquaculture Platform will engage in a dialogue with National and Commission funding agencies in order to advocate its conclusions thus contributing to the formulation of national and European research policies endorsed by the sector.



SME

- Through its workshop on 'Empowering vulnerable stakeholders' ASEM Aquaculture Platform will increase the awareness of researchers, policy makers, extension officers and other stakeholders on gender issues in aquatic food production which is in line with the realisation of Millennium Development Goal of gender equity.



Knowledge Transfer

- Improved coordination of related research activities.
- Involve Asian small farmers in the workshops.
- Sensibilise the European industry partners about the importance and the benefits of seeking complementarity with the Asian industry.
- Install an Asia-desk within the setting of EATIP to secure a sustainable impact.

Related Publications/Projects

ASEM Aquaculture Platform (FP6), CONSENSUS (FP6), FEUFAR (FP6), SARNISSA (FP7)