



Programme: FP7 Cooperation
Theme 2 Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnologies

Deliverable 25

Output Survey Report

Project Acronym : AQUAINNOVA

Project title : Supporting governance and multi-stakeholder participation in aquaculture research and innovation

Grant agreement number : 245238 – FP7-KBBE-2009-3

Project coordinator : European Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Platform



Deliverable 25 is the output survey report.

Task 3 of Workpackage 3 (Sectoral Mapping and Benchmarking) looked to recognise and assess the principal outputs and knowledge generated by EU research, by providing the coordinators of past (FP6) research projects with a self-administrated 'matrix' (Deliverable 21). This matrix also allowed coordinators to provide their perception of the impact of the outputs on research, industry, policy and environment and to highlight future research needs in that subject area. The coordinators of ongoing FP7 project were not sent the matrix to complete, but were asked to provide a list of project deliverables and a copy of their "Dissemination and Implementation Plan".

Once the database of projects and coordinator information had been compiled (Deliverable 20) and checked with our Commission desk officer, staff members in EAS, FEAP and AquaTT shared the initial email contacts to FP6 coordinators using common mail templates (see Annex I) and the first mails were sent out by EAS and AquaTT in April 2010 (Month 3). **A total of 121 EU projects (of which 31 are in FP7) were identified.** Contact mails to FP7 coordinators were also sent out at this time (by FEAP). Despite a deadline of April 30, replies with completed Matrices started coming back only towards the end of May.

Survey returns

The table below gives a summary of the output survey returns to date.

	No. projects	Returned matrix/deliverables	% return
FP6	90	31	34%
FP7	31	28	90%
TOTAL	121	59	49%

As can be seen, of the 90 FP6 projects (the target for the Matrix of outputs), only 31 were finally collected, representing a return rate of 34%. Of the 31 FP7 projects, 28 deliverable lists and/or dissemination plans were either returned by the coordinators (or in many cases taken from project web sites), to give a return of 90% and an overall return rate of 49%.

This is therefore significantly lower than the 60% rate of return discussed and set as a target in the Technical Annex of Aquainnova.

Reasons for non-return

After the initial email and a subsequent reminder had been sent to coordinators, Aquainnova staff started to contact by telephone, proposing to complete the matrices during the conversation and generally facilitating as much as possible the completion of the survey. This proved to be time consuming and had a measurable effect, although in many cases, coordinators simply agreed to return the matrix for a given date and often did not comply with that commitment. In several cases, Aquainnova staff actually completed the Matrices ourselves and then returned to the coordinator for approval.

Reasons for non-return included (by perceived order of frequency):

- I have no time!
- I have no paid time!
- The project finished a long time ago
- The project was too complicated to summarise outputs on one Excel sheet or questionnaire.
- I am solicited by too many questionnaires and too many 'impact' assessments
- The outputs of this SME project are IP 'protected'
- We are onto a new (follow-up) project now....

Several examples of ‘typical replies’ are provided here for information:

“We have received the same query from Alistair some time ago and have replied that we do not have the capacity to answer it. We have put a lot of efforts in publishing all results coming out of the project on the homepage – one that is more extensive than most other EU supported projects. We thus find it a bit annoying to answer queries from people having got money to gather information, asking us that we should use time and efforts to deliver this information once again and for free. So please use some time consulting our homepage and select the output information you may find interesting”.

“I have no time and resources for these kinds of activities. Further I am not sure that you contacted me before about this as mentioned in your first line of your email. Also the time frame given is far too short. All information is published on the website and reported to the Commission. So I would like to prevent double (triple) work as Aqualnova initiative might do. So read the documents available...”

“Just for your information, this is the third study of this kind from the EC we are completing, we never had the results of the first two. I hope it’s the last”.

“It should be noted that many deliverables are only to project partner level as the research is “for the benefit of SMEs”, which means that the SMEs involved in the project have the IPR for all results, and they can decide what is disseminated or not. Please treat this document as confidential.”

Despite these negative replies, it should be noted that the 31 coordinators of FP6 projects that did complete the matrix, did so with pleasure and with a clear understanding of the importance to supporting best governance practice and supporting the work of the Thematic Areas of EATIP.

Next steps

The matrices and deliverables/dissemination plan were used for the development of new Technical Leaflets (TLs) based on a template developed in Workpackage 2 (Deliverable 7). In almost all cases, these were prepared by Aquainnova staff and then sent to the coordinators for amendment and approval. Each TL was attributed to the most relevant Thematic Area (TA) of EATIP – with many being relevant to more than one TA. Work is still ongoing on putting them online at the Aquainnova section of www.eatip.eu. At present, compilations of the TLs for each of the Aquainnova workshops of Workpackage 4 are being finalised.

The TLs were used as a basis for the RTD synopses – part of the Thematic Area Position Paper (template is deliverable 8) that enable TA working group participants to identify the outputs of previous research and hence make a gap analysis in the production of their Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas. The synopses provide a simple summary of the projects and their outputs, with information on research gaps and/or follow up activities that were highlighted by coordinators in the survey matrix.

Finally, the information contained in the matrices and planned deliverables was used to underpin Workpackage 7, whose key objectives are to appraise the outputs and identify priorities for knowledge transfer that can impact the sector and begin to implement the plan of action.

Annex I. 'Model' email sent out to EU project coordinators in April 2010

Hi (name),

The EAS, FEAP and AquaTT have been working together since 1998 to disseminate widely the results of EU research in aquaculture, notably through the AquaFlow, Profet and Profet Policy initiatives. This effort is being continued through a new coordination action, Aqualnova, where we are providing valuable support to the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (www.eatip.eu) that will provide the European Commission with clear priorities for future research.

To help the Thematic Areas (TA's) of the EATIP in their work, we are asking each of the FP6 project coordinators to help us by identifying the main outputs of your EU project (improved methodology, new technique, new product or application, patents, IPR...) that can have an impact on the aquaculture sector. For this, we have prepared the attached excel matrix file for the (project acronym) project and would ask you to complete this and return it to us. The matrix has two parts – information on the outputs and your perception of project achievements. Although your project might not have been directly related to aquaculture, it is indeed relevant to the EATIP TA's that cover seafood quality, safety, environmental and ecosystem themes. We have taken a broad view when it comes to the major output of the research, but the commercial benefits and implementation of results are of specific interest, both for the EU as well as the commercial partners. Even if this might be outside your normal way of viewing success of your research, we kindly ask you to pay specific attention to this when completing the matrix.

Your feedback will greatly help us to identify and prioritise knowledge transfer that will have a significant benefit on the sector judged from a value chain perspective, from basic research to commercial implementation of the research outputs within your area of responsibility. It will also help the Thematic Areas produce strategic research agendas for agreement by stakeholders and submission to the Commission so as to define future EU research work programmes. Hence by taking the time to help us, you will be playing a key role in identifying priority areas and influencing future research funding policy. Evidently, this may ultimately benefit you and your institution in the future.

We have a target response of 100% from this exercise. We would be grateful if you could please save the attached file adding the project acronym to the end of the filename and send back the completed document to the EAS secretariat by Friday April 30. If you have any questions related to the survey or would prefer to complete the survey over the phone please do not hesitate to contact me (Alistair Lane) by mail or by phone at +32 59 32 38 59.

With best regards,

Alistair - EAS, Courtney – FEAP and David - AquaTT