

EU EATIP Day: Low impact – High output
Promoting food security and new value chains in aquaculture

Wednesday, October 9 10:30 - 17:30 EXHIBITION 2
Chair: Sigi Gruber, European Commission - DG RTD, Alexandra Neyts, EATIP

Aquaculture in Europe provides safe food of the highest quality and nutritional value, across a wide range of products adapted to consumer preferences and lifestyles. European policies and strategies recognise its potential as a full-fledged sector of the blue bioeconomy and as an essential approach to acquiring global food and nutrition security. Future-proofing our food systems in terms of sustainability, resilience and competitiveness, calls for strengthening circularity and resource efficiency.

According to the report “Food from the Oceans”¹, the biggest potential for increasing seafood production is through mariculture, especially at lower levels in the ocean food chain. In addition, the production of shellfish, algae and other low-trophic organisms contributes to carbon sequestration and eutrophication mitigation. It is therefore important to consider their suitability to produce food and feed, as well as other high value compounds for use in cosmetics, personal care, pigments, etc. Other ways of supporting the circular bio-economy are the use of waste from one aquatic species as feed for another, and the introduction of alternative feed ingredients from insects, unicellular organisms, fungi, wood and other terrestrial plants.

As a joint effort, the Healthy Oceans & Seas Unit of the European Commission, Directorate General Research and Innovation (DG RTD), and the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATiP) are setting focus on the impact of European research for the benefit of aquaculture development within Europe as well as worldwide. Through three consecutive sessions, they present some major outcomes of technology and innovation efforts that contribute to tackle the bottlenecks and opportunities in aquaculture towards the overall goal of ensuring food and nutrition security. Pitching the latest results from EU funded projects will be followed up by industry-driven panel discussions.

AQUAEXCEL²⁰²⁰ is a key aquaculture research project funded by the EU, which integrates leading European aquaculture research facilities that work towards bringing aquaculture research in Europe to a new level. The latest industry-relevant outputs will be presented and discussed at an interactive brokerage session, creating a forum for engagement and exchange between aquaculture researchers and potential industry beneficiaries of these innovative aquaculture outcomes.

- 10:30 SESSION 1: Setting the scene - How can European research and innovation stimulate sustainability and competitiveness of the aquaculture sector?**
Policy context and stakeholders’ engagement driving food security and new value chains in aquaculture. Incl. introductory talks by the European Commission and EATiP.
- 11:25 SESSION 2 – Low trophic production technologies and new feed resources**
New findings, future bottlenecks and opportunities on sustainable production of novel food, feed and added value products from alternative low-trophic resources.
- 14:10 SESSION 3 – Efficient management systems to optimize sustainability and competitiveness**
Sustainable, resilient, climate friendly and competitive practices through eco-intensification, intelligent management and new systems for the production of low-trophic species.

¹ Food from the Oceans - How can more food and biomass be obtained from the oceans in a way that does not deprive future generations of their benefits? High Level Group of Scientific Advisors. Scientific Opinion No. 3/2017.
https://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/pdf/sam_food-from-oceans_report.pdf

- 15:40 AQUAEXCEL2020 – Research Infrastructures enabling innovative aquaculture research**
Industry-focused presentations and discussions around highly industry-relevant outputs; from pioneering fishmeal replacement options to optimizing overall fish performance through an innovative new tool.
- 17:30 End of the sessions**