



Case study on regional differences in Aquaculture

COFASP

The ERA net COFASP: Strengthening cooperation in European research on sustainable exploitation of marine resources in the seafood chains was launched February 2013 with duration of four years. The main objectives are to strengthen cooperation and synergies between European research programmes, focusing on the sustainable exploitation of marine resources in seafood production. COFASP has 27 partners from 17 European countries. The ERA net is coordinated by DASTI (Denmark) with sector coordinators serving the fisheries-, aquaculture- and sea-food processing sectors. COFASP has five work packages to address: Inventory and strategy (WP1), Towards common programmes (WP2), Joint calls on applied research and on support to advice (WP3), Dissemination and capacity building (WP4) and Management (WP5). The first common call was launched February 2014 and a second common call is planned to be launched early 2015.

COFASP address actions envisaged within fisheries, aquaculture and seafood: 1) to enhance scientific knowledge and innovation reinforcing advice on fisheries management supporting decision making and strengthening an ecosystem-based fisheries management as central principle of the revised Common Fisheries Policy; 2) to implement the EU Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Aquaculture through development of strategic guidelines and implementation of national strategic aquaculture plans; and 3) to promote consumption of safe, nutritious and healthy European seafood and ensure traceability of seafood from net and cage to plate. Based on the earlier ERA-NET MariFish and the running ERA-NET SEAS-ERA, focusing on capture fisheries, aquaculture and seafood processing including distribution to consumers the objectives of COFASP are: 1. To strengthen cooperation and synergies between major European funding agencies that support research on sustainable exploitation of marine renewable resources with the aim to ensure exploitation according to the precautionary principles and to enhance innovation in and competitiveness of the primary sectors fisheries and aquaculture as well as subsequent seafood processing and distribution to the consumer. 2. To define the science, information and data necessary to underpin the revision of the CFP and to ensure its successful implementation by designing complementary national research programmes and outlining affiliated monitoring and information/data sharing systems needed.

CASE STUDY

The work plan of COFASP include case studies as means to promote the emergence of joint research programs in fisheries, aquaculture and seafood science between European countries. The 'case studies' is a task within *WP 4, Dissemination and capacity building*. The case study suggested for the aquaculture sector is to explore the similarities and differences that are in research priorities between different regions of the areas covered by the COFASP partnership:

Sub-Task 4.2.2 Aquaculture (sub-task leader RCN)

As a regional approach fails to address all species- and culture system differences, a combined regional/species approach is envisaged for case studies in aquaculture. The suggested areas are; 1) Cold water marine aquaculture, 2) Freshwater aquaculture, 3) Mediterranean aquaculture (incl. Black sea) and Shellfish aquaculture (incl. Crustaceans). The challenges for aquaculture growth and development are highly species-dependent, and such a practical division will simplify the identification of critical scientific questions to address in case studies. Through the Aqualnova project, EATiP has conducted a comprehensive analysis on research priorities within each of these areas, and in close cooperation with the EATiP- project research gaps will be identified and implementation plans outlined. The optimal results would be to implement one case study for each area.

The aquaculture industry is organised differently throughout Europe, also the business landscape and regulations are structured differently. Together with a focus on different species, there seem to be a great difference in resulting research priorities between regions. However, to develop the aquaculture sector, also the funding agencies and stakeholders from authorities need to recognise how the industry is developing and learn from the approaches taken. Also, there will in the coming years be a focus on the research & innovation needs in implementing National Aquaculture strategies. Establishing the national funding priorities could benefit from a greater knowledge and understanding of the industry developments and practices in other regions.

To address these issues a case study on the regional differences between Mediterranean Sea bass/Sea bream farming and Northern European Salmon farming is planned. The selection of species and farming concepts has been chosen to focus on regional differences between relatively similar farming technologies (finfish on-growing). Two workshops including visit to bass/bream farms (Italy) and salmon farms (Norway) are included in the case study.

The expected outcome from the case study is greater understanding among funding partners of the needs and challenges in the aquaculture sector between the regions. This could lead to inspiration in setting national strategies as well as ease in defining COFASP call topics. It is also expected to have impact on policymakers at regional and European level (i.e. EU Commission).

Programme

The objective of the case study is to: **Identify similarities and differences that are limiting growth of Mediterranean bass/bream industry and North-Atlantic salmon industry. Addressing both regulatory factors, marked issues, and biological/technological constraints**

Procedure:

Two 2-day workshops will be organised, one in Italy (Rome) for bass/bream and one in Norway (Frøya) for salmon. Ideally, invitees to participate in the case study should be present at both workshops.

The focus will be on the on-growing stages. During the workshop, participants will identify and rank limitations for further growth. The outputs of the two workshops will then provide a comparison of the two regions. Each workshop will also include a visit to a farm, where some of the issues raised will be further elaborated.

We are looking at 20-25 participants for the exercise and these will be split into four round tables. Each one deals with one of the issues above and identifies bottleneck and constraints. They report these back to the group, where they will be consolidated to produce a final list. This list will then be prioritised by a round of voting. We then change the tables (so not always in same groups) and start on the next topic.

Schedule:

Day 0: Arrival evening

Day 1: Workshop sessions with round tables that explore

- 1) technology and innovation,
- 2) presentation of the product offer - market intelligence and access and
- 3) organisation of the sector - regulatory framework, the role of farmers' organisations and sector promotion.

Day 2: Farm visit, followed by final review of the listed priorities before departure.

Stakeholder participation

Rome:

- 10 stakeholders from Mediterranean farming industry.
- 5 stakeholders from North Atlantic salmon farming industry. (Norway, Scotland, Ireland)
- 5+ organizers and stakeholders from European associations etc. (FEAP, EATiP, AquaMed ++)
- COFASP partners that have expressed interest (only CNR/Italy and BMELV/Germany)

Frøya:

- 5 stakeholders from Mediterranean farming industry.
- 10 stakeholders from North Atlantic salmon farming industry.
- 5+ organizers and stakeholders from European associations etc. (FEAP, EATiP, AquaMed ++)
- COFASP partners that have expressed interest (only CNR/Italy and BMELV/Germany)

Practical details

- Invited stakeholders are offered reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs based on real costs
- Cost of travel for the COFASP members are expected to be covered by the partner travel budget. Meeting facilities are expected to be provided for by the host.
- Salaries for participants are expected to be covered by their own organisation.

Set the dates

Workshop 1 in Rome: **12 – 14 May 2015**
Workshop 2 in Frøya (Trondheim): **16 – 18 June 2015**