COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AQUACULTURE FROM A CROATIAN PERSPECTIVE

Industry Forum AE 2017 “COOPERATION FOR GROWTH”

OCTOBER 20, 2017 Dubrovnik Croatia
**TARGET AUDIENCE**

The event is targeted to professionals from the aquaculture industry including farm managers, veterinarians, technologists, quality managers, representatives of the feed industry, vaccine and drug producers.

**BACKGROUND**

Aquaculture in the Mediterranean has not progressed significantly over the last decade, due to several factors that influence the performance of the main fish species production (European sea bass and gilthead sea bream in particular) and inhibit growth and competitiveness of the sector.

**Croatian marine aquaculture** has grown recently up to almost 9000 tons, placing the country in the 4th place in Europe. However, still there are many constraints in the further expansion of this industry, due to the fact that the sector relies mostly on imported fry and feed, and issues related to health control. Production is expected to increase, and in parallel with this growth, the industry will be faced with increasing challenges: high feed costs and inadequate feed formulas, quality of hatchery produced fingerlings, lack of vaccines and therapeutics, inadequate linkage between Industry-Research-Extension service through the value chain, weak market policies and product diversification.

The problems in the Croatian marine aquaculture are more or less similar to the problems faced by other Mediterranean countries. The EU Commission has recognized that open communication and cooperation are pathways to resolve challenges and improve the competitiveness of the Mediterranean aquaculture industry. In 2017, through the funding framework of Horizon 2020, two Research and Innovations Actions on the topic SFS-23-2016: “Improving the technical performance of the Mediterranean aquaculture” have been approved for funding. The two projects are implemented by different consortia and their acronyms are PerformFISH and MedAID.
SESSION H2020 - PROJECTS FOR MEDITERRANEAN AQUACULTURE
OUTCOMES FROM RESEARCH AND BENEFITS FOR MED INDUSTRY

The first session will be dedicated to the presentation of these two Med projects, which have just started in May 2017. Following an overview of the main issues facing the Croatian aquaculture, the coordinators of PerformFISH and MedAID will present the main goals of the projects, the approach used to tackle the biological, technical and operational weaknesses of the Med industry, in order to improve the performance of the sea bream and sea bass aquaculture and foster sustainable growth through innovations.

The second session of this Industry Forum will debate on the main outcomes and tangible results coming from ongoing EU and Med projects and how to translate knowledge into benefits for the Med industry.

10:30-10:40 Introductory and welcome address by Chairs

10:40-11:10 Croatian aquaculture and Mediterranean Cooperation

11:10-11:50 Panel 1 - Presentation of MedAID and PerformFISH H2020 project

11:50-12:05 Panel 1 - Coffee

Product diversification and quality

13:15-14:30 Lunch by own

14:30-15:45 Discussion

15:45-16:00 Coffee

16:00-16:30 Wrap-up session

Nutrition - feeds and rapid changes in the feed ingredients with all the consequences due to replacement of fishmeal with vegetable protein sources that influence FCR, presence of mycotoxins in feed is underesti-
med, as are some micro ingredient deficiency.

Health - still a bottleneck for successful aquaculture with insufficiently organized common approach to disease prevention and control. Very few substances for infectious diseases are available and authorized on
the market.

Welfare - still many welfare issues remain unresolved, mainly at transportation and at slaughter; the panel will debate how the use of animal welfare principles may influence Mediterranean aquaculture industry, trade issues and aquaculture operators.

Breeding - In the Mediterranean aquaculture, breeding selection programs are relatively new, counting only a handful of generations of selection and improvement of performance. Part of the reason for the late implementation of such programs relate to the structure of the industry, with a large number of small produ-
cers who cannot afford expensive breeding programs, while at times the lack of absolute control of the
reproductive function of the fish has limited rapid development.

Product diversification, marketing promotion and quality - the current fragmented approach to marketing of Mediterranean aquaculture products requires collaboration of producers associations and producers across the Mediterranean. The panel will debate how to improve the image of Mediterranean aquaculture
production systems and products, and envisage new marketing strategies to drive consumers confidence and consumption.
EXPECTED OUTCOME

The industrial forum will be a place of addressing the problems with attempt to send messages to those who could contribute in searching the ways to overcome them. The main purpose of the workshop is to enhance the dialog between different industrial actors and promote cooperation as main pathway for improvement. Following above initial positions and debates, key points raised in discussion will be summarized and published in EAS Magazine.

INVITED PANELLISTS:

Lav Bavčević, Renata Baric, Edgar Brun, Karmen Buršić, Hans de Vis, Vlasta Franičević, Dolors Furones, Marco Gilmozzi, Marisol Isquierdo, Hans Komens, Katerina Moutou, Francesc Padros

ORGANIZERS OF WORKSHOP:

Ivan Katavić, Giovanna Marino, Snježana Zrnčić