



Advancing European Aquaculture by Genome Functional Annotation

AQUA-FAANG Holds Three Productive Meetings in Brussels

Brussels, Belgium - AQUA-FAANG representatives held three productive meetings in Brussels on October 24-25, 2023, to discuss the transformative potential of genomics and precision breeding in shaping a more sustainable and competitive European aquaculture sector.

Meeting with the Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC)

On October 24, AQUA-FAANG project coordinator Sigbjørn Lien presented AQUA-FAANG and AQUAIMPACT projects' innovative findings to the AAC Finfish WG meeting. Lien highlighted how genomics and precision breeding can transform fish breeding programs, enhance disease resistance, and optimise resource utilisation.

Breakfast Meeting with MEP Nils Torvalds

On October 25, AQUA-FAANG and AQUAIMPACT representatives met with MEP Nils Torvalds to discuss how genomics and precision breeding can improve the sustainability and competitiveness of the European aquaculture sector. The discussions centred on the need for continued investment in both fundamental and applied genomics research to enhance aquaculture breeding programs, disease resistance, and overall sustainability. The meeting also highlighted the growing role of aquaculture in ensuring food security and economic growth in the European Union. Genomics offers a powerful toolset for addressing these challenges. By enabling breeders to develop fish strains with improved feed efficiency, disease resistance, and adaptability to various production systems, genomics can pave the way for more sustainable aquaculture practices. The participants also highlighted the need for a skilled workforce in computational genetics, genomic and sequence data analysis, bioinformatics, and genotyping technology.

Visit to the EFFAB and FABRE TP Office

On October 25, AQUA-FAANG and AQUAIMPACT representatives visited the EFFAB and FABRE TP office in Brussels to exchange ideas on future RDI needs and strategies for improving public-private collaboration in aquaculture breeding and genomics. The meeting focused on taking aquaculture breeding to the next level by leveraging the latest advancements in genomics and breeding technologies. The visit underscores the commitment of both the research and business in the aquaculture sector to work together towards sustainable and environmentally friendly practices in European aquaculture.

Conclusion

The three meetings in Brussels on October 24-25, 2023, were highly productive and informative. They highlighted the transformative potential of genomics and precision breeding in shaping a more sustainable and competitive European aquaculture sector. The participants also discussed the need for continued investment in RDI and public-private collaboration to ensure that the sector can meet the growing demands for food security and economic growth.

About AQUA-FAANG

The AQUA-FAANG project is dedicated to advancing sustainable aquaculture through genomics research. The project aims to enhance breeding programs, improve disease resistance, and ensure a resilient European aquaculture sector by decoding the genomic intricacies of six finfish species. This research contributes to the broader goals of the **Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture** of the European Commission.

For more information about AQUA-FAANG and its research, please visit www.aqua-faang.eu.

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