Advancing European Aquaculture by Genome Functional Annotation

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Coordinator:	NMBU

D7.3 Project Brochure

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 817923

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Deliverable No	D7.3		
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Responsible Partner	EFFAB		
Author(s) ***Name and Organisation***	Cagla Kaya, EFFAB		
Reviewer(s)	Ross Houston (UEDIN), Paul Flicek (EMBL)		
Dissemination level	PU	Public	X
	CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
Short description	A project brochure introducing AQUA-FAANG will be designed and published (M8) as a targeted promotional material to communicate the project, consortium, project structure, and objectives to the aquaculture and related industry and policy makers.		

Change Records			
Version	Date	Changes	Author
1	03/12/2019		Cagla Kaya
2	18/12/2019	Changes in the text of the brochure	Cagla Kaya
3			
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Disclaimer

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Content

1 Executive summary 4
2 Background: 4
3 Objective & Format 4
4 Content 5
5 Partners involved 5
6 Results & implications 5
7 Annex 0

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1 Executive summary

The objective of the deliverable (under task 7.3) is to ensure awareness of AQUA-FAANG and its activities related to European aquaculture breeding among AQUA-FAANG stakeholders, end-users and policy makers. One of the traditional tools for assuring this awareness is an introductory brochure which provides brief information on the project aim, structure, partners, expected outputs and impacts. It will be communicated both in digital and hardcopy formats through AQUA-FAANG network.

2 Background:

This deliverable was aimed at providing the project with the publicity brochure, meant to describe the AQUA-FAANG project. The introductory brochure is an important first source of information of the project for the target audiences. It should be informative, inspiring and invite readers to further engage with the project. The AQUA-FAANG brochure will be published and disseminated to the partners in order to increase its reach. The target audience of this brochure is the aquaculture related industry, policy makers and the researchers.

3 Objective & Format

The main objective of the brochure is to raise awareness to the project and provide the first step to engage stakeholders with AQUA-FAANG.

AQUA-FAANG's introductory brochure is designed as a two-fold A5 document (210 × 297 millimeters), printed double sided. It will be used as a "presentation card" of the project and widely distributed whenever relevant, e.g. for scientific events, meetings with stakeholders or through social media channels of AQUA-FAANG.

The brochure is initially printed 1000 copies and distributed to the project partners (each 40 copies). Furthermore, it is mailed to the project partners, External Expert Advisory Board (EEAB), the Exploitation Working Group (EWG), the Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP) and to the AQUA-FAANG stakeholder mailing list as a high-quality pdf suitable for commercial printers. This will enable partners to distribute the brochure at national and international events. It is also made available via the website (https://www.aqua-faang.eu/) and different social media channels of AQUA-FAANG, EFFAB, FABRE-TP, EMBL, XELECT, AquaGen, VCZSA, PISA, OVAPISCIS, STOLT, ABSA, GENEAQUA, SYSAAF, NIREUS and other partner organisations.

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4 Content

The final text and contents of this brochure were decided by successive improvements of an originally proposed draft by EFFAB. The draft was presented and discussed upon with relevant WP7 partners.

AQUA-FAANG introductory brochure includes the following sections:

- Cover with key facts about the project
- A brief introduction on AQUA-FAANG for the aquaculture related industry, policymakers and researchers
- Why - brief information on the aim and objectives of AQUA-FAANG
- How – brief information on the main activities and expected results
- Impact – the summary of expected impacts for the scientific and commercial stakeholders
- Partners
- Stakeholder engagement – explanation about EWG, KEP and invitation to join stakeholder mailing list
- Contact information and links to the website and social media channels
- Disclaimer and EU support

5 Partners involved

All partners of WP7 Dissemination, exploitation and communication were involved in preparation of the text and the design of the brochure. Partners involved consist of EFFAB, NMBU, UEDIN, WU, EMBL, XELECT, AquaGen, VCZSA, PISA, OVAPISCIS, STOLT, ABSA, GENEAQUA, SYSAAF, NIREUS.

6 Results & implications

The due date of this deliverable is M8.

It is expected that the project brochure will be communicated through internet and by partners' (printed copies) network. Brochure gives a brief information on AQUA-FAANG, Exploitation Working Group and the Knowledge Exchange Platform in a clear way.

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7 Annex

Partners

Universities

research institutes

SME's and International Organisations

Stakeholders

A key strength of AQUA-FAANG is industrial engagement across a portfolio of the six most important European farmed fish species. This engagement will allow co-development of commercially relevant outputs with long lasting impacts in European aquaculture.

Exploitation Working Group (EWG)

The EWG is a platform for cooperation and collaboration between AQUA-FAANG and relevant stakeholder groups including the aquaculture breeding companies/SMEs and other relevant industry that would uptake the results of the project.

Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP)

The KEP consists of project coordinators leading the three H2020 projects funded in the same call as AQUA-FAANG. This includes GENE-SWitCH, focused on chicken and pigs, and BovReg, focussed on cattle. This group will liaise with broader initiatives, including the main FAANG consortium, and aims to enhance coordination of relevant activities across the different projects to maximize knowledge exchange, encourage collaboration, and facilitate standardization of functional annotation.

Are you interested in the AQUA-FAANG project?

The project results and tools will be available on our website.
You can visit us at https://www.aqua-faang.eu/ and on Twitter @AQUA_FAANG
Are you a stakeholder and do you want to know more about AQUA-FAANG?
Please subscribe to our stakeholders mailing list on our website!

Contact

Please send all your inquires to aqua.faang@gmail.com

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Advancing European Aquaculture by Genome Functional Annotation

Key facts

Project Coordinator:	Sigbjørn Lien/NMBU
Project Deputy Coordinator:	Daniel J. Macqueen/UEDIN
Project Manager:	Lise Marie Fjellsbø/NMBU
24 partners:	11 SME & industry, 4 Research Institutes and 9 Universities
	Partners from 9 European countries: Norway, UK, France,
	Spain, Italy, Poland, the Netherlands, Greece, Germany
Budget:	€6,355 million
Duration:	1 May 2019 – 30 April 2023

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The AQUA-FAANG (Advancing European Aquaculture by Genome Functional Annotation) project aims to greatly improve our understanding of genome function in the six most commercially important European farmed fishes namely ***Atlantic salmon, Rainbow trout, European seabass, Gilthead seabream, Turbot, and Common carp***. Genome-wide functional annotation maps will be generated for each species and used to develop an understanding of their contribution to variation in traits of commercial relevance, exploiting comparative approaches to enhance transferability of findings.

The project brings together world-leading interdisciplinary scientific expertise with industry, providing direct pathways to commercial exploitation. An important aim is to enhance phenotype prediction using genomic information, paving the way for precision breeding to improve ***disease resistance and other commercial traits*** in aquaculture.

Advancing European Aquaculture by Genome Functional Annotation

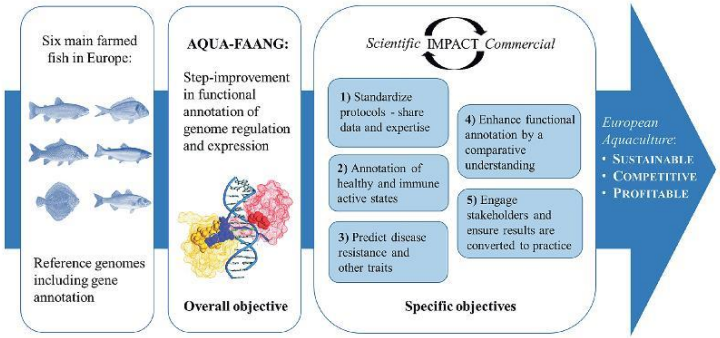
Why?

- A new phase of research, in close collaboration with end users, is needed to build on the recent advances in genomics for a ***sustainable, competitive and profitable European aquaculture***. Thus the well-annotated reference genomes have a fundamental importance as a resource for the research community in both academic and industry.
- The application of functional genomics is needed to improve genomic selection, including traits like disease resistance in farmed fish stocks to address the ***economic impact of infectious diseases and welfare problems***.

How?

- Development of standardized functional annotation protocols and implement them to generate functional annotation maps
- Establishment and coordination of standardized bioinformatics tools and data processing to identify and characterize functional genome elements
- Generation of standardized ImmunoMaps in the six selected AQUA-FAANG species to help understanding fish immune responses and disease resistance mechanisms
- Enhancement of accuracy of genomic prediction for disease resistance by incorporation of functional genomic data
- Exploitation of comparative analyses to enhance the impact of functional annotation maps
- Translation of AQUA-FAANG results into aquaculture practice and increase the uptake of tools and expertise by scientific and commercial communities

Figure: Overall concept of AQUA-FAANG



Impact

AQUA-FAANG has created an internationally leading consortium for excellence and innovation in farmed fish genome biology. The cluster of world experts from both academia and industry, combined with extensive training and dissemination activities, will create a long-term interactive hub expected to outlast the duration of the project. Main impact of the project will be the release of all the data produced openly to facilitate academic and commercial research across Europe and around the world.

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