



AQUA-FAANG: Paving the Way for a Sustainable and Resilient Aquaculture Sector in Europe

The AQUA-FAANG project, a 4.5-year European-funded initiative dedicated to advancing aquaculture genomics and precision breeding, culminated in a successful final conference held in Edinburgh, UK, from October 11th to 13th, 2023.

The conference covered a wide range of topics, including the functional annotation of farmed fish genomes, the dynamic functional regulation of farmed fish genomes, and the relevance of AQUA-FAANG's findings to the aquaculture sector in Europe.

Dr. Emily Clark, a guest speaker from the EuroFAANG Research Infrastructure project, presented the project's main objectives during the event. The project aims to build upon the research and knowledge gained in AQUA-FAANG and other EuroFAANG projects, taking it to the next level under the EuroFAANG Research Infrastructure concept. Dr. Clark emphasized the significance of these projects and EuroFAANG in improving farmed animal breeding and ultimately, the entire animal production sector in the EU.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion summarising key takeaways and focusing on short-, medium-, and long-term goals for aquaculture genomics, disease resistance, and integrating functional annotation information into breeding programs.

Overall, the AQUA-FAANG Final Conference was a resounding success, bringing together experts and sectoral leaders to explore the future of aquaculture genomics and its promising applications. The research presented at this conference is poised to advance the aquaculture sector significantly.

Summary of key takeaways:

AQUA-FAANG has made significant progress in advancing the field of aquaculture genomics, developing new tools and resources to help researchers and breeders better understand the fish genome.

The potential applications of AQUA-FAANG findings are huge, with the potential to improve fish health, breeding programs, and overall sustainability of the aquaculture sector.

Continued investment in aquaculture genomics research is essential to realize the full potential of this technology and ensure the long-term success of the European aquaculture sector.

About AQUA-FAANG

The AQUA-FAANG project is dedicated to advancing sustainable aquaculture through genomics research. By decoding the genomic intricacies of six finfish species the project aims to enhance breeding programs, improve disease resistance, and ensure a resilient European aquaculture sector. This research contributes to the broader goals of European aquaculture and environmental sustainability.

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

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