



Deliverable

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Instrument Co-ordination Action

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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	*
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	



31.01.2007 - AquAgriS Project Newsletter #1

[The AquAgriS Project](#)

[Rationale of the AquAgriS Project](#)

[Objectives and activities of the AquAgriS Project](#)

[The social impact of the AquAgriS project](#)

[The AquAgriS scenario for the future FFA](#)

[The AquAgriS network](#)

[List of the AquAgriS' partners](#)

The AquAgriS Project

The AquAgriS Project involves 26 partners from EU and developing countries in a network aiming to increase the knowledge and the awareness of the environmental aspects of farming, fisheries and aquaculture activities.

AquAgriS is the acronym for: "Environmental management reform for sustainable farming, fisheries and aquaculture". The project, started the 1st of January, 2007, is funded through the "Coordination Action" instrument of the 6th Framework Programme of the EU, contract n. FOOD-CT-2006-36298, with a total contribution of EUR 899.671.

The project activities are implemented by the AquAgriS Consortium, which is made by the 26 institutions of the participating partners.

Coordinator of the project is the "Università del Salento" (University of Salento - UNILE), represented in the project by Dr. [Vincenzo Zonno](#), while the Project Officer at the European Commission is Dr. Judit Krommer.

The project will be represented very soon on a dedicated website with all the information about the activities, the results obtained, links to relevant sites and/or documents and a lot of other information on the topic of sustainable farming, fisheries and aquaculture.

[top](#)

Rationale of the AquAgriS Project

The safety of what is served up to us on our dinner plate is no longer something we can take for granted. In the past the belief was that, with a little care, good food would provide safe, healthy and high-quality nutrition. Not much thought was given to how food was grown and processed. Consideration for how plants, animals, soil and water were treated by conventional farming systems was not in our minds.

Extensive use of pesticides, fertilizers and significant energy inputs to maximize production brought with them considerable waste release and a variety of related environmental problems. Over the last few decades, consumers' awareness for food production systems that are more environmentally sustainable and compatible with the demands of the earth's



eco-system has increased.

Knowing that we are what we eat has made us more sensitive to our natural environment, both in terms of what we put in and what we take out. To make this system more sustainable, twenty-six organisations from fifteen different countries united their efforts, in the context of the AQUAGRIS Coordination Action, in order to reform environmental management for improved sustainability in the farming, fisheries and aquaculture (FFA) industries.

[top](#)

Objectives and activities of the AquAgriS Project

The AQUAGRIS network aims to increase the understanding and the awareness of problem areas that are faced by today's FFA industries and develop solutions that have minimal impact on biodiversity and the environment. Frequent seminars and workshops, on-going discussions between leading experts in the field and the subsequent cross-fertilisation of ideas are on the menu. These get-togethers encourage the formation of a coherent strategy for future research, avoiding duplication of effort and fragmentation of resources. In addition, all stakeholders are able to meet and exchange ideas at the custom made web site.

Leading specialists from different countries, with expertise in environmental management, will review the latest international scientific literature to elucidate the optimum standards in sustainable farming and highlight future research priorities.

In order to be able to incorporate existing or new technological advances into current management systems, standards, policies and regulation on environmental management in FFA, industries must obviously be harmonised. The first step to producing compatible, sustainable, unified systems involves the mapping of the current situation concerning the status of national and international standards, codes of practice, policies and regulation. In this way, the main barriers that prevent the development, implementation and use of measures to decrease the impact of the FFA industries can be identified. This effort will yield new standards and codes of practice removing bottlenecks and loopholes and promoting best practice.

[top](#)

The social impact of the AquAgriS project

The AquAgriS action will promote the awareness and the understanding of the big, long-term environmental and health damages caused by unsustainable farming, fisheries and aquaculture, fostering an open dialogue among researchers and producers to encourage the formation of a coherent strategy for future strategies for the management of sustainable food production models. The consciousness of these aspects will push citizens toward the adoption of lifestyles which will increasingly take in account the benefits and



the costs of sustainable productions.

[top](#)

The AquAgriS scenario for the future FFA

AquAgriS will develop new strategies for environmental management in order to produce sustainable production systems. Such systems will be designed to imitate natural systems in respecting the existing soil nutrient and water cycles and maximising energy flows and soil trophism. The ultimate goal is to coordinate processes so that waste from one process or system becomes input for another.

[top](#)

The AquAgriS network

The AquAgriS network consists of thirteen universities, seven research institutes and six SMEs. This diversity ensures an efficient exchange of knowledge, experiences and ideas which will be furtherly increased by the identification of suitable Centres of Activity, throughout the European Research Area, which will be invited as associate and observer members in the research forum.

[top](#)

List of the AquAgriS' partners

1. Universita' del Salento (Italy)
2. AquaBioTech Ltd. (Malta)
3. Tampere University of Technology (Finland)
4. Centiv GmbH (Germany)
5. Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (Austria)
6. Ben Gurion University of the Negev (Israel)
7. STM aquatrade S.r.l. (Italy)
8. University of Southern Denmark (Denmark)
9. Pancham Aquaculture Farms Ltd. (India)
10. The Suganthi Davadason Marine Research Institute (India)
11. Institute for Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (Germany)
12. Istituto per lo Studio degli Ecosistemi, Sezione di Firenze (Italy)
13. National Institute of Oceanography (India)
14. Norwegian University of Life Sciences (Norway)
15. Fundacion AZTI - AZTI Fundazioa (Spain)
16. Scottish Association for Marine Science (United Kingdom)
17. JTI - Swedish Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Engineering (Sweden)
18. Transnational Consulting Partnership (Germany)



- 19.Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain)
- 20.University of Barcelona (Spain)
- 21.University of Crete (Greece)
- 22.University of Gent (Belgium)
- 23.University of Haifa (Israel)
- 24.University of Murcia (Spain)
- 25.University of Caen-Basse Normandie (France)
- 26.Cochin University of Science and Technology (India)

[top](#)

