



European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations

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To

European Commission
DG Agriculture and Rural Development
Rob Peters, Head of unit
Unit AGRI-H.5 Research & Innovation
L130 – 10/186
B-1049 Brussels/Belgium

Subject : EFARO's view related to the long-term EU strategy for agricultural research and innovation

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of EFARO (www.efaro.eu: the Association of Directors of the main European Research Institutes involved in Fisheries, Aquaculture and its interaction with the Marine Environment), in relation to the "long-term EU strategy for agricultural research and innovation".

With this letter I would like to bring to your attention that aquaculture is important to your agriculture strategy, but not addressed as such.

Blue growth is an important component for securing global food and well-being. Feeding the world population by 2050 (and providing them with sustainable energy and jobs) is one of the main challenges of today, especially in the light of the scarcity of fresh water. The green revolution allowed us to feed our current world population; a blue revolution is needed to feed 10 billion people by 2015.

In order to accomplish this, there is a need to provide aquaculture with a solid policy, stimulating research and innovation as an integral part of agricultural research, innovation, and policies. Some examples to illustrate this as well as the connection between agriculture and aquaculture include:

- Aquaculture is part of a diverse array of agricultural activities in rural and coastal areas providing meaningful jobs for farmers that may want to expand or change their activities, including pond cultures, intensive recirculation systems, mariculture, and cage farming.
- Aquaculture is part of production chains, e.g. the protein production chain, which are inseparably connected to other agri-production activities.
- 70% of the world's water reserve can be found in our seas and oceans. Untapping this resource by means of aquaculture production can address the challenges of feeding a world of 10 billion.
- The future of the production of animal proteins (including fish) is in the production of algae and seaweed – for feed, food and energy.

We realise that Blue Growth is very much the realm of DG Research and agriculture the realm of DG Agri. Connecting these worlds may be beneficial for the production of animal proteins in well-organised value chains, and the creation of jobs in rural areas. Therefore we would like to kindly request you to in your long-term EU strategy for agricultural research and innovation give ample attention to aquaculture both in its land and sea based forms.

I hope this input will be of use to the consultation procedure and will help sharpen the discussions on how to proceed. EFARO is very much willing to further discuss this matter with you.

Sincerely yours and best wishes,

Dr. Tammo Bult
EFARO President