Fish have always been a vital source of food, but commercial aquaculture is a relatively recent phenomenon, emerging around thirty years ago. Expertise in the field is therefore still in the early stages of development. Wageningen Aquaculture is a leading institute within the European arena of aquaculture research and development, enjoying a strong global network and actively seeking public-private partnerships for innovative aquaculture projects.

Wageningen Aquaculture is a cooperative venture between IMARES and Wageningen University’s Aquaculture and Fisheries Group. The university link facilitates new research through academic PhD projects. IMARES – a leading research institute concentrating on strategic and marine ecology – uses this newly-acquired expertise in applied contract research, and offers consultancy and policy support services for both public and private organisations. The marriage of these two partners results in a holistic approach, making Wageningen Aquaculture the ideal partner for exploring the potential of aquaculture.

Wageningen Aquaculture’s expertise is grouped into four areas: physiology, nutrition, aquaculture systems, and environmental impact and farming systems. Specific fields include the development of production systems for new fish and shellfish species, the optimisation of Recirculation Aquaculture Systems (RAS), Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA), breeding and genetics, fish feeds and nutrition, welfare and stunning methods.

Wageningen Aquaculture serves local and national governments as well as international organisations including the European Commission, embassies, multilateral donors, and national and international private-sector companies. The services offered range from assessments and impact studies to feasibility studies, contract research, consumer research, consultancy services and tailored training courses.

Wageningen Aquaculture’s facilities for experimental research are worldclass, including indoor and outdoor algae culture systems, recirculating systems and flow-through systems for fish, a hatchery and nursery facilities for fish and shellfish, and a range of laboratories.

Wageningen Aquaculture looks forward to becoming your partner in exploring the wide-ranging possibilities of aquaculture.

Expertise

Physiology
- Fish welfare (during culture, transport and slaughter process)
- Behaviour, metabolism, gene expression
- Breeding programs

Nutrition
- Testing Sustainable feed ingredients
- Fish meal and oil replacement
- Additives for feed
- Natural and formulated feed
- Digestibility parameters
- Marine algae cultures for aquaculture

Aquaculture systems
- Recirculation Aquaculture Systems
- Sustainable Aquaculture concepts
- Organic Aquaculture concepts
- Integrated Aquaculture Concepts (off- and on-shore) - IMTA
- Mussel seed reproduction systems
- Waste treatment

Sustainability assessment
- Diversification of markets and products (new species and added value seafood)
- Ecological Impact evaluations
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Added Value Seafood

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