

14:50-15:00: Q/A session and wrap up

15:00 to 16:00: Sustainable seafood production, trade and consumption: EU cooperation with China in the field of aquaculture

15:00-15:05 Introduction: Maive RUTE, Director for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnologies, Directorate General for Research, European Commission

"ASEM Aquaculture 09" project: A multi-stakeholder platform for sustainable aquaculture between Europe and Asia (20mn)

Prof. Dr. Johan Verreth, member of ASEM Aquaculture 09, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

Prof. Yingjie PAN, on behalf of China AquaFishNet, President of Shanghai Ocean University, P.R. China

SEAT project: Sustainable and ethical trade in aquaculture (20mn)

Dr. Dave LITTLE, coordinator of SEAT, University of Stirling, Institute of Aquaculture, United Kingdom

Dr. Liping LIU, associate professor, Shanghai Ocean University, P.R. China

15:50-16:00: Q&A session and conclusions

16:00 End of the meeting

Background information

Both EU and China are facing common challenges in the food sector with potentially high economic and social impacts. They are therefore dedicating major research and development efforts in agriculture, aquaculture and food research. The objective of this session is to feature a sample of collaborative research activities that the EU is supporting with Chinese partners or which are highly relevant to Chinese authorities in the food sector. The session will focus on joint research efforts towards sustainable food production and consumption.

The projects to be featured during the session will focus on the impact of animal health on production and food security (EPIZONE), the improvement of nutrient efficiency in food, feed and crops to reduce negative environmental impacts (NUE-CROPS), the monitoring of contaminants in food and feeds through innovative cost-efficient methods (CONFIDENCE),

the support to EU-Asia multi-stakeholder dialogue for sustainable development (ASEM AQUACULTURE09) and ethical trade (SEAT) in the aquaculture sector.

Four projects (NUE-CROPS, EPIZONE, SEAT and ASEM AQUACULTURE09) include Chinese partners from renowned research centres or universities such as the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), the Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, the Harbin Veterinary Research institute and the Shanghai Ocean University.

Short description of the projects:

Outbreaks of epizootic diseases can result in enormous economic losses along the whole animal production chain, causing food safety issues and public health concerns. Control methods involving the mass culling of livestock are no longer acceptable for the international society. EPIZONE (2006-2011) is an EU 6th Framework Programme for Research (FP6) project which brings together expert scientists to combine and harmonise efforts on the development of new strategies and tools to combat future epizootic animal diseases. **EPIZONE** has established an international network for sharing knowledge and expertise on epizootic animal diseases, materials and reagents. Increased excellence through the collaboration generated by the project will help to combat future epizootic animal diseases more efficiently and more cost-effectively. Improved knowledge on epizootic disease diagnosis, epidemiology, risks and intervention strategies, generated by EPIZONE will contribute to the prevention and control of epizootic animal diseases on a global level. In this way European experience, knowledge and scientific achievements will gain visibility and will be used to support decision making and future research.

Project website: <http://www.epizone-eu.net/>

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The overall objective of the **NUE-CROPS** project ("Improving nutrient efficiency in major European food, feed and biofuel crops to reduce the negative environmental impact of crop production") is to develop knowledge, models and tools required to (a) breed/select nutrient (and water) use efficient crops and (b) integrate the use of such crops with agronomic innovations to significantly reduce fertiliser (and water) use and associated negative environmental impacts of crop production, while maintaining or improving crop yield and quality. To achieve its overall objectives, the project will utilise and transfer knowledge obtained with model systems (Arabidopsis, barley) to widely grown crops associated with extensive N and P fertiliser inputs and environmental losses, it will target 4 major crop species (wheat, oilseed rape, potato and maize) that together account for >50% of mineral fertiliser inputs and associated environmental impacts in Europe. The partnership includes 3

large European breeding companies as partners as well as partners from the PR-China and USA, which together with Europe account for >60% of global mineral fertiliser use, in R&D, training and dissemination activities. Finally, it will provide a strong dissemination and training programme to facilitate rapid technology transfer and introduction of innovations from the project into commercial practice.

Project website: <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/nefg/nuecrops/>

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The presence of potentially hazardous chemicals in food remains a major concern among European consumers. Currently, a variety of analytical test methods are used to help ensure the safety of food and feed in Europe both for goods produced in the EU and imported from third countries. Many of these methods are tedious, time consuming, and require sophisticated and expensive instrumentation. The **CONFIDENCE** project (2008-2012) aims to further improve food safety in Europe by the development of faster and more cost-efficient methods for the detection of a wide range of chemical contaminants in different food and feed commodities. These methods will not only save precious time in ever faster production cycles, but will also permit more food/ feed samples to be monitored due to the lower cost per test. Following the scientific and technological development phase the new techniques will be widely disseminated: Training workshops will be held for governmental and industrial end-users, results from the project will be presented to the scientific community by publications in the scientific press and presentations at relevant international conferences. Consumers will also be kept fully informed via a series of Open Days and workshops for consumer organisations. Education modules and training courses for under- and postgraduate students will be designed and established in order to assure a sustainable integration of the new techniques into a standard portfolio of analytical methods. Altogether, these measures will guarantee that the developed methods find their utmost application in real practice and thus efficiently contribute to food safety in Europe.

Project website: <http://www.confidence.eu/index.php>

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The "**ASEM AQUACULTURE 09**" (2009-2013) FP7 project builds on the outputs of the ASEM Aquaculture Platform, established in 2003 as an EU-Asia framework for multi-stakeholder dialogue, networking and continuing coordination for sustainable aquaculture development. With the increasing demands on the aquaculture sector, given the vulnerability of the natural resource issues involved, and the significant gains to be realised through stronger scientific and economic partnerships between the two regions, the aim of this new project is to move more pro-actively into effective policy, into formulation of joint

research goals, and outcomes which contribute to Millennium Development and related goals. The project's major aim is to reconcile ecosystem and economic system demands to consolidate concepts of sustainability in aquaculture development. The common denominator of the project's activities is the concerted effort to initiate joint EU-Asia processes which have impact on research excellence, contributing effectively to good production practice, improved governance, fair trade, social equity and sustainability. In developing these, the ASEM Aquaculture Platform will strengthen opportunities for the EU aquaculture sector to derive value from its technological and structural assets, and to develop valuable trade partnerships.

Project website: <http://www.asemaquaculture.org>

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SEAT (2009-2013) is an EU 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7) project which will take a highly interdisciplinary approach to explore the sustainability (environmental impact, social justice, economic efficiency, nutritional quality and safety) of the trade in aquaculture products on which the EU has become increasingly dependent. It will consider whole value chains for tilapia, catfish, shrimp and prawns extending from China, Vietnam, Thailand and Bangladesh to the European Union. Research outputs will provide inter alia the evidence-base for the creation of an 'Ethical Aquatic Food Index' (EAFI). This key project outcome will be used to disseminate complex project findings to the wider public in a concise and understandable way. Topics that will be addressed during the project will include environmental impacts, impacts of trade on local livelihoods and public health, food safety including contaminants and traceability concerns, and barriers to trade. Collaboration will also take place with European and Asian small and medium scale-enterprises (SMEs) to address specific sustainability questions.

One of the objectives of the SEAT project is to provide guidance on the EU 'hygiene package' of regulations because of their highly technical nature and demanding standards of compliance. It is envisaged that such guidance is best provided through face-to-face discussions with government officials responsible for regulation of exports of aquaculture products to the EU and with some of the main exporting organisations, not least to hear of their experiences with compliance with the EU requirements. Such meetings are being sought in each partner country and we have recently had a high level meeting with government regulatory agencies in Vietnam. This joint EU/China session today has provided an excellent opportunity to progress this objective with China.

Project website: <http://seatglobal.eu/>

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Useful links

Information on 'Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology' research supported by the EU

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/kbbe/home_en.html



**FP7 projects with ASIA in the area of
Food, Agriculture and Fisheries,
and Biotechnology Research**

Food, **A**griculture and **F**isheries, and **B**iot**e**chnology
Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy (KBBE)

