



Vertical Farms: the European ones are different

AquaFarm brings to Italy the most innovative example of vertical farming of the Old Continent.

Pordenone, 5 February 2018. In Europe, the construction of vertical farms, real farms where the cultivation out of the ground develops vertically, has started late compared to the United States and the Far East. On the other hand, some of these projects are extremely advanced from the point of view of design and technology. Previewed for Italy and for the second time in Europe, at AquaFarm, at Pordenone Fiere on February 15th and 16th, the project, already partially operational, of the Abbattoir, presented by reusing part of the former Brussels slaughterhouse. The recovery plan from the beginning envisages the incorporation of urban agriculture production units. Since last year it has been active on the roof of one of the buildings that make up the complex, the covered market Foodmet, an 1800 square meter aquaponic farm, the largest of its kind in Europe, able to produce at the same time fish and vegetables. The farm uses the heat recovery of the market air conditioning systems to keep the water in temperature in every season. Furthermore, rainwater is collected and used in the farm, fulfilling the idea of a circular production of food. The plant is only the first step in urban agriculture developments in the Abbattoir complex, which upon completion will be a fully integrated production and distribution/sales centre. The Brussels municipality plans to build a total of five complexes of the same type, one for each of the pentagon segments on which the city is divided. For visitors to AquaFarm, it is, therefore, a unique opportunity to learn about a vertical farm that can be a model for Italian enterprises that are based on the recovery and reuse of abandoned buildings. The presentation of the project is scheduled in the session Città is the new campaign: the new virtuous circle, on Friday 16 February from 15.30 - 17.30. In the same session the Italian project of agriculture in the most advanced urban area now operational will be illustrated, the HORTUS hydroponic farm built within the F.I.CO of Bologna. It will be presented by Saverio Panata, Senior Architect of Carlo Ratti Associati.

In the session, moderated by Thomas Zöllner, Vice President of the Association for Vertical Farming, will also speak: Luisa Bonassi, Eurovix Coordinator in the INAPRO project, which has been active in aquaponics research for four years; Vasileios Vallas CEO and Co-funder of PlantHive, which manufactures modular production units for domestic agriculture; Simone Venturini, owner and head of Research and Development of Nutritech, who will talk about aquaponics opensource and public-private collaboration; Daniele Brigolin, researcher at the Ca 'Foscari University of Venice, will explain how to promote the development of a green agri-food industry through the introduction of aquaponics; Gaetano Benanti of Confcooperative, on aquaponics for the recovery of the suburbs and urban regeneration, with the case of Palermo; Zjef Van Acker, president



of the Groei NEST cooperative, will speak of the fundamental role of the community for the development of urban agriculture and vertical farming projects.; Cristian Chia-vetta, a doctor in Geoengineering and Georisorse at ENEA, will close the session, which will include urban agriculture and vertical farms in the broader framework of industrial symbiosis as an application of circular economy in agriculture.

For more information about the conference programme please check:

<http://www.aquafarm.show/program-15-february/?lang=en>

Aquafarm 2018 attendance is free of charge after registration. Register and download your pass:

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