



INFORMAZIONI PER LA STAMPA

AquaFarm 2018, the European reference event for aquaculture, vertical farming and algoculture

Minus 60 days to the start of the second edition of AquaFarm, in Fiera Pordenone. The conference agenda is filling fast, covering topics internationally recognized as high priority

Pordenone, 12 December 2017. AquaFarm 2018, scheduled in Pordenone, Italy, on 15-16 February 2018, is developing fast as an international reference conference and expo, from the point of view both of topics covered and sponsors and attendees engaged. Available spaces in the exhibition floor are running out, even if the area involved is significantly larger than last year's edition. Besides the renewal of a very high percentage of first edition exhibitors, new companies are coming on board, after witnessing the success of the start-up.

All partnerships have been confirmed and expanded, from API and AMA, respectively the association gathering Italia aquaculturists and farmers of mollusks, to AFV, the global Association for Vertical Farming. Other international endorsements are in the final stages of closing.

The 2018 conference program is bound to surpass in quality and richness of content the widely lauded 2017 one. AquaFarm 2018 conferences will cover the general themes that mark the identity of the event: marine and freshwater aquaculture, vertical farming and soilless, algoculture. The three content streams retain a clear identity, but this year program highlights the synergies and intersections between them. Aquaponics is so covered both as aquaculture and vertical farming; algae are also examined in connection of fishfeed, as a source of oil, integrators and proteins; vertical farm applications include insect farming for the production of meals for fishfeed.

Coming to the specifics, the big news in the aquaculture content stream will be presentation by the Marine Research Institute in Bergen, Norway, of "Gene editing by CRISPR/Cas9: A game changer for aquaculture?" on the program of genetic improvement of salmonids using the new genome editing technique. Other urgent topics covered in the agenda, judging from the public feedbacks, are optimization in fishfeed formulations, new biological and chemo-



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physical technologies for disinfection and depuration of waste farming water, new cryopreservation systems for seafood.

In vertical farming and soilless crop cultures domain, a focus will be aimed at the debate raging in Europe on overcoming the current definition of “organic” in view of the fast progress of hydroponics and aquaponics in the sustainable production of food. To this end, one of the first task a successful vertical farming movement must take charge of is dispelling the myth, widely held in a highly traditional food-centered culture like the Italian one, about the presumed lack of taste and flavour of the vertical farming and hydroponics products. Lastly, the Aquafarm attendees will assist live at the building of a small vertical farm.

In algoculture, Aquafarm 2018 will be the place where it will be clear that a major turn is near in the cutting of the algae cost and in the boosting of their useful substances content. The event conferences on algae will explore raw matters for “green chemistry”, ingredients for nutraceuticals, algae utilization in energy and fuel production and in wastewater depuration, nutrients for animal feed. In this last topic, a presentation will be given on a new research and its results on a new way of algae cultivation for substitution of oceanic resources in fishfeed composition.

Details on Aquafarm, the exhibiting opportunities and the conferences program are available on www.aquafarm.show.

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