



Workshop

Aquaculture: Challenges and Opportunities in the Brazilian Blue Revolution

March 30th 2016
Institute of Advanced Studies, University of São Paulo (USP)
São Paulo, Brazil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objective was to present USP aims and potential assets in aquaculture to a representative group of actors in the Brazilian society - including farmers, farmer associations, support industry, academy and govern – and learn from this group how to plan its development. The USP Provost of Research welcomed new research arrangements with the private sector in order to provide a faster advance in solutions to the society. Presenters covered the following topics: (1) Global aquaculture and the importance of aquatic food for human health, (2) Aquaculture in Brazil, (3) Aquaculture in the State of São Paulo, (4) USP assets for aquaculture, and (5) USP aquaculture platform. Aquaculture is the fastest growing food production sector globally in the last 30 years and overcame capture fisheries. Aquaculture is big and has a bright future, and Brazil has the main conditions for its development, including climate, water, grains, market. Brazilian aquaculture has been growing but still below its great potential. Aquatic food: second most imported food item in Brazil (after wheat). It is suggested the rectification of sector weaknesses, by e.g. improving licensing, insurance and creating a research consortium, beyond modernizing technical assistance and extension. São Paulo is the fourth aquaculture producer state, the biggest market for aquatic food and where aquaculture is recognized of social and economic interest. USP has several potentially useful assets for aquaculture development, wishes to advance in this field of application and wants to know the needs of the aquaculture industry. The USP Aquaculture Platform would require that assets work as a team, with research efforts arrangement as “Industry needs + Training and extension + Information and network”. The program also include the goals: coordination and research – adjusted to sector needs – internationalization in research and training in collaboration with institutes from Americas, Asia and Europe. The USP available expertise may work under themes (5) or research groups (10). Priority suggestion: elaboration of an Aquaculture Directory (SP, Brazil), an inventory of sector actors, something a public university should do if to support the industry.

The open debate provided suggestions from the participants. It becomes important to eliminate the idea of dissociation university-private sector. It is also essential that aquaculture, as private or public initiative, keep focus in the solution of practical issues by research. USP students should be involved in this process to be able to become future actors in the sector. USP would be delayed compared to other universities in spreading its expertise in aquaculture to the sector. It is necessary to set tasks, priorities and deadlines, as knowing how the private sector may help this development. As the biggest university in Latin America, USP opinion is very important and to do so it should know sector’s needs in order to defend it. USP has the necessary conditions to develop aquaculture and now a leadership is need to the process.