

## World aquaculture consumed 12 pc more feed in 2016

Global feed production has surpassed 1 billion tonnes for the first time, with the United States and China accounting for a third of all production, according to the 2017 Alltech Global Feed Survey.

Brazil continues to be the leader in Latin America, while Mexico recorded the highest growth in metric tonnes.

Meanwhile, for the first time in several years, the European Union showed growth in the production of feed, led by Spain (8 per cent increase). In contrast, production fell in Germany, France, Turkey and the Netherlands.

The survey also reveals that the predominant growth comes from feed sector for beef, pig and aquaculture, as well as from several countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The report includes results from 141 countries and more than 30,000 feed mills, and Alltech claims that it is the most complete and consistent assessment to date on feed.

"The Alltech Global Feed Survey provides valuable information and an annual pulse check on the feed industry as we look toward sustainably feeding a growing population," said Aidan Connolly, Alltech's director of innovation and vice president of corporate accounts. "The survey continues to improve and provide more robust and reliable data."

The 2017 Alltech Global Feed Survey estimates that global feed production reached 1,032 million tonnes, an increase of 3.7 per cent over last year and 19 per cent over the results of the first survey published in 2012, despite the 7 per cent decrease in the number of feed plants.

The growth of production with fewer factories "which means greater efficiencies and a decreased environmental footprint," Connolly stressed.

The survey evaluates the production of compound feed and prices through information collected by the Alltech global sales team and in partnership with local feed associations. It aims to provide an information resource for responsible politicians, decision makers and industry stakeholders.

This year's report shows that the top 30 countries, classified by production, own 82 per cent of the world's feed mills and produce 86 per cent of the total feed globally.

The top 10 countries producing feed in 2016, in order of importance in terms of production, are: China, the United States, Brazil, Mexico, Spain, India, Russia, Germany, Japan and France. These countries account for 56 per cent of the world's feed mills and represent 60 per cent of total production.

The Alltech survey also notes that aquaculture continues to grow year on year, with an increase in feed production of 12 per cent in 2016, consuming 39.9 million tonnes.

Increased production in Turkey, Germany, the United Kingdom and France contributed to a better performance in the European region.

Africa increased about 1 million metric tonnes, driven by Egypt and Nigeria in particular.

Asia maintained its volume, but with an interesting movement among its players: Philippines, China and Myanmar declined in 2016, while Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea increased.

This rise in tonnage seems to follow the upward trend, about 8 per cent annual growth, in the consumption of farmed fish.

By species, those that required more feed were carp (32 per cent), shrimp (21 per cent), tilapia (12 per cent), salmon (11 per cent) and catfish (8 per cent).

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