

UMU joins European project to boost seabass and gilthead seabream production

Researchers from the University of Murcia (UMU) will participate in a new European research project that will establish the key factors to boost aquaculture production in the Mediterranean, focusing on gilthead seabream and seabass, two of the most consumed species in Europe.

The project, called MedAID (Integrated Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture), will bring together the industry's top experts from more than 30 organizations, including universities, producers and research centres in twelve European countries.

Funded by the European Union's H2020 program and with a budget of more than EUR 7 million, it is coordinated by the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza and the Institute of Research and Technology Agri-food of Catalunya.

Together with them, the University of Murcia will provide more than 25 year expertise in the sector and, especially, in the study of the immune system of these gilthead seabream and seabass.

During the process, the competitiveness and sustainability of the marine aquaculture sector will be thoroughly studied. Nutrition and feeding practices, animal welfare, animal diseases, genetics, environmental impact, consumer perception and marketing aspects, economic efficiency and performance of the sector, as well as the social aquaculture image will be discussed.

This project arises in the context of a continent that needs to level the amount of fish it consumes compared to the one it produces, given a deficit that is being supplied with imported products. For this reason, the European Commission aims to increase sustainable aquaculture production by 20 per cent by boosting this sector, which employs around 85,000 people, especially in rural and coastal areas.

MedAID project aims to play a key role in increasing the so far stagnant productivity of Mediterranean aquaculture..

Lien article : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&id=91813&ndb=1>