



aquaculture europe

From wild harvest to venture pitch:

the week Connemara turned scientists
into entrepreneurs

AQUI Impact & Excellence Awards

Focus on EAS Corporate Members

INNOAQUA – EAS organises two international webinars on algae-based innovation for next level combined aquaculture production.



Through its involvement in the EU Horizon Europe [INNOAQUA](#) project, EAS is leading the project task to promote international cooperation and knowledge exchange with stakeholders, research organisations, industry representatives and networks beyond the immediate INNOAQUA consortium.

For this, EAS has organised two webinars – the first focussing on SE Asia and the second on S. America.

Research on the production of macro- and micro-algae is global, and there is increasing interest in how algal production can be coupled with aquaculture production in more intensive (land-based) systems to enhance climate resilience of systems, optimise resource efficiency and circularity and produce “enhanced” algal extracts that have potential in food and non-food applications.

The first webinar was held in February 2026 and it was organised in partnership with the Microalgae-Biota Technology and Innovation Research ([ALBIC](#)), Universiti Putra Malaysia, and the Institute of Climate Adaptation and Marine Biotechnology ([ICAMB](#)), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT). The event showcased examples of production systems at pilot or near full scale production from Europe and SE Asia and was followed by a panel discussion and audience Q&A that discussed concept approaches, pilot successes and upscaling issues - paving the way for future cooperation and partnership.

The speaker line-up was as follows:

- Montakan Tamtin (Coastal Aquaculture Research and Development Division, Department of Fisheries, Thailand). “Overview of seaweed cultivation and production in Thailand”.
- Rui Perreira (A4F, Portugal). “INNOAQUA land-based IMTA pilot in Portugal, with sole & macroalgae”.
- Nguyen Nhut (Research Institute for Aquaculture No. 2 (RIA2), Vietnam). “Developing Intensive White Shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) Culture through IMTA-RAS Technology for Climate Change Adaptation and a Circular Economy Approach.”

- Pia Steinrücken (NORCE ; Norway). “INNOAQUA: Land based IMTA – integrating salmon and microalgae cultivation at pilot scale”.
- Wahidatul Husna (Borneo Marine Research Institute, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia). “Integrating High-Value Sea Urchins and Tropical Seaweeds into Traditional Finfish Farming through Sea-based IMTA in Malaysia”.
- Pauline O'Donohoe (Marine Institute, Ireland). “ASTRAL - IMTA Species of the Future.”

Moderators: Dorinde Kleinengris (NORCE, Norway and INNOAQUA Coordinator) and Natrah Ikhsan (Microalgae-Biota Technology and Innovation Group (ALBIC), Universiti Putra Malaysia).

Panel moderator: Patrick Sorgeloos (Gent University, Belgium).

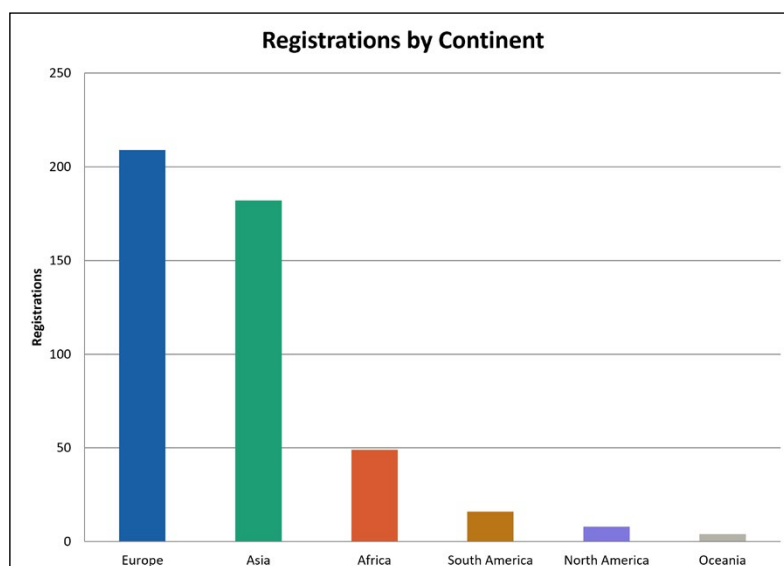
The video of the webinar is available on YouTube and is split by timestamps into each presentation, questions, panel discussion and closing remarks for easier viewing.



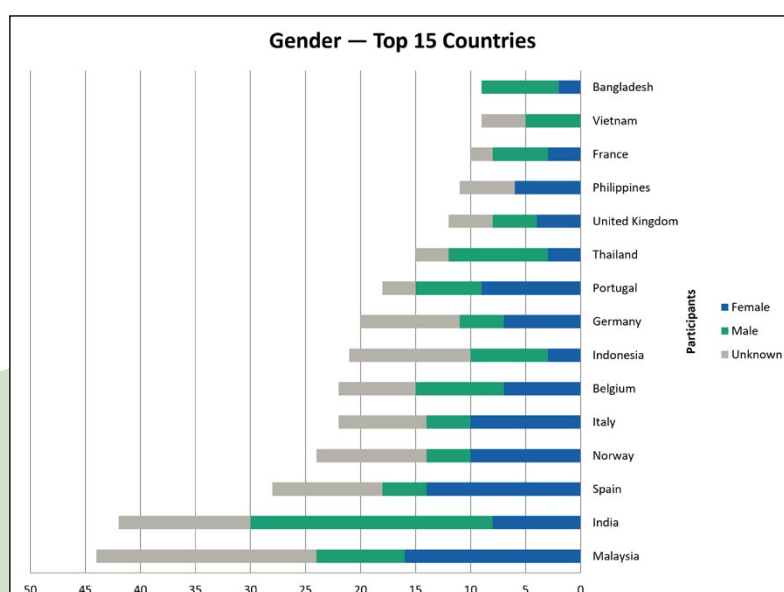
Promotion through EAS Social Media channels resulted in 1,079 participants viewing the registration page, with 466 registering and **289 in attendance from 69 countries**. This was an excellent result.

After the event, EAS prepared and sent a survey to all registered participants. **The goal was to encourage bilateral connections between attendees and INNOAQUA project partners for future cooperation.**

The survey yielded 49 responses from 28 countries, representing 47 unique organisations. From a regional perspective, 21 respondents were from Asia-Pacific, 21 from Europe and 7 from Africa and the Americas.



The top 15 countries and gender split of registrants are shown below



EAS has now organised the second workshop **“Algae-based innovation for next combined aquaculture production II”**

taking place online on Friday, September 11th.

Building from the first webinar that focussed on combined species production systems at pilot or near full scale from Europe and SE Asia, this workshop will focus on algal extracts and their potential food and non-food applications.

Moderators:

- Dorinde Kleinegris (Norce, Norway)
- Rodrigo Jaramillo (IFOP, Chile)
- Panel moderator Patrick Sorgeloos (Gent University, Belgium).

Case studies and expert insights from:

- Leila Hayashi, International Seaweed Association / Acadian Seaplants, Canada
- Natrah Ikhsan, Universiti Putra Malaysia
- Juan Francisco Aldunce Meyer, Seaweed Place, Chile
- Andrés Reyes, Laboratorios Bioluméa, Chile
- Derek Latil de Ros, ALGEMY, Spain
- Stive Pregent, Eranova, France

Full programme and speaker biographies here: [INNOAQUA Webinar #2 Flyer](#)

As for the first webinar, the same post-event survey will be sent to all attendees to encourage bilateral connections between attendees and INNOAQUA project partners for future cooperation.

So while this article will only be published after the webinar has taken place, we will inform EAS members of the publication of the webinar on our YouTube Channel, once published.

And as INNOAQUA enters its final implementation phase, additional efforts will be dedicated to identifying opportunities for cooperation with international research organisations,

The tables below show areas of interest and type of cooperation sought.

Production Technologies of Interest

Technology	Responses	% of Respondents
Macro-algae (seaweed) cultivation	29	59%
Micro-algae production	27	55%
Sea-based IMTA	21	43%
Land-based intensive RAS	19	39%
Land-based IMTA	16	33%

Species Groups of Interest

Species Group	Responses	% of Respondents
Micro algae	30	61%
Macro algae	24	49%
Tropical freshwater fish	18	37%
Warm water marine fish	17	35%
Molluscs	16	33%
Crustaceans	16	33%
Cold water marine fish	14	29%
Temperate freshwater fish	11	22%
Holothurians & benthic feeders	6	12%

Innovation Partnership requests represented one third of the total cooperation sought.

Type of Cooperation Sought

Cooperation Type	Responses	% of Respondents
Research partnership - science to science	27	55%
Innovation partnership - research to business	17	35%
Business partnership – producer to producer	3	6%
Business supply partnership – supplier to producer	1	2%

industry associations and innovation networks active in sustainable aquaculture, algae valorisation and circular bioeconomy. These activities will support the wider dissemination, replication and future uptake of INNOAQUA results.

<https://innoaquaproject.eu/>

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