

Event Summary

One food system: A paradigm shift including intersections between aquatic and terrestrial food systems

Date: 1st July 2022

Participant summary:

We have 185 registrants from 47 countries (Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States).

63 registrants attended the live event with 34% attendance rate. Together with 28 panelists and organisers, 14.3% of all attendees were from Africa, 8.6% from Asia, 0.95% from the Caribbean, 60% from Europe, 15.2% from North America, and 0.95% from Oceania; with 32.2% from the academia or research institute, 17.7% from the government, 21.0% from the industry, 19.4% from NGOs, and 9.7% from other stakeholder groups.

Webinar content summary:

Nina Berendsen (Government of the Netherlands) opened the webinar by briefly introducing the Global Action Network, followed by a detailed dissemination of the mission of the network, and the aims of this webinar by the leader of the network Ms. Anita Utthem Iversen.

Ivo Demmers (Wageningen University and Research) gave the high-level welcoming remarks to highlight the importance of blue food following a series of events (e.g. 2021 UN Food Systems Summit) and the necessity to integrate the aquatic and terrestrial food systems (i.e. one system approach) to tackle the challenges we are facing globally.

In panel 1, Dr. Harald Sveier (Lerøy Seafood Group ASA), Elise Sæle Dahle (NCE Blue Legasea and Biotech North) and Dr. Iftakharul Alam (the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh) showcased scalable solutions to address the system as one. Innovations and opportunities for more circular food systems lie across terrestrial and aquatic systems. They also showed ways to engage the society in multiple ways (by farmers and entrepreneurs in local communities) thus consumers in larger and distant markets could make informed decisions and support the changes we need.

In panel 2, panelists discussed what is holding us back and what can be done to accelerate scaling and mainstreaming. The urgency to work together as one across traditional sectors is felt in practice:

- Civil society wants to make a change, expects change, and reaches out to not only policy makers but also to businesses;

- Private companies want collaborate with NGO's and civil society to address challenges across terrestrial and aquatic food systems;
- Financial institutions look into ways to incorporate equity and externalities into their loans;
- More importantly, higher transparency, more knowledge sharing, and more coordination is needed among stakeholders.

Q&A:

There were 8 questions asked to the panelists by the participants.

Q: Do any of the projects have issues / challenges with respect to microplastic pollution in the ocean hampering or affecting their harvesting operations?

A: (Dr. Harald Sveier) Microplastic is not an issue as far as we know at the moment for the seaweed production.

Q: By how much is methane production reduced when animals (i.e., cows) are fed seaweed? What are the health issues we worry about with seaweed and mussels? Do they also get vaccinations and antibiotics?

A: (Dr. Harald Sveier) With 1-2% inclusion of fermented seaweed (Saccarina L) we can reduce the methane production in cows with about 20%. We do not use any antibiotic or vaccination on the seaweed.

Q: Question to Harald Sveier: Does Ocean Forest monitor iodine levels in their products? Do you survey this over the seasons and do you have any concerns regarding this?

A: (Dr. Harald Sveier) Yes, Iodine is an issue. we are monitor iodine in our product every year. Without removing any iodine we can use 1-3% of seaweed in animal diets. With removing the iodine we can use much more. At the moment we are developing a method for industrial reduction (up to 90%) the iodine level. We now need to upscale it. Please remember that iodine is an essential element we in general are lacking in our food and feed.

Q: Why Management of plants is very challenging in Bangladesh?

A: (Dr. Iftakharul Alam) Management of ecological material is always tough. There should be good flow of water controlled by inlet and outlet. Due to problem with channelization management of plant on pond dike became challenging.

Q: Question for Elise Sæle Dahle: Do you know of conflicts with local communities due to the area use for blue mussel farming in different countries? For example, in Spain, the biggest blue mussel producer in Europe?

A: (Elise Sæle Dahle) We expect that there will be conflicts if we are to build a new large-scale blue mussel industry. There are already conflicting interests in how to use the costal shores. However, scaling a new industry should address this from the start and use research to find the best areas for mussel production, and making sure that new production benefits the ecosystems in the sea.

Q: Question for Iftakharul Alam: Which countries are advanced in implementing mangrove-

shrimp/aquaculture co-management? What is the present planning of Bangladesh Government in implementation of mangrove-shrimp/aquaculture co-management?

A: (Dr. Iftakharul Alam) Some south Asian countries especially the Philippines and Indonesia are advanced in implementing mangrove-aquaculture. Bangladesh Government has a plan to upscale the silvo-aquaculture program specially in Chokoria Sundarbans area.

Q: Coastal communities mostly depend on coastal aquaculture and livestock husbandry for their livelihoods in Bangladesh. Meanwhile, is there possibility to integrate silvo-aquaculture and improve livestock management being a part of climate change adaptation process?

A: (Dr. Iftakharul Alam) Yes, there are. Some of mangroves are also a good fodder. Therefore, both fisheries and livestock might be incorporated in this system which would be good for climate adaptation by restoring mangrove for these purposes.

Q: Question for Dr. Alam: There are many different ways to integrate mangroves back into shrimp culture landscape. In the pond, along the sides of the pond or outside the pond and only using them as a sort of biofilter for shrimp production. What is according to you the possibly best way to integrate mangroves back into shrimp culture?

A: (Dr. Iftakharul Alam) The best way is to plant the mangrove on the canal side and bring the nutrient water in ponds.