

4-5
December
2017

Budapest

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR HEALTHY DIETS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF
ACTION ON NUTRITION
2016-2025



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SEAFOOD FROM AQUACULTURE, FISHERIES AND PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN THE OCEAN OF TOMORROW

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Context

Seafood is recognized as a **nutritionally high quality and balanced food item**, but in the meanwhile, it can be also vectors of **pernicious environmental contaminants**



The EU has a **thorough legislation and monitoring programmes for contaminants** in place

Enormous **variability among European countries in seafood species produced and consumed**

The vast **majority of Central Eastern European consumers**, especially children, young adults and elderly people, **do not meet the dietary recommendations of eating two portions of fish per week**

European consumers are worried about quality, safety, sustainability, frauds and health-related claims regarding seafood

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World Health Organization



UNICEF



Global Food Programme

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Context



The **seafood sector is complex**, heterogeneous and dynamic, **but still conservative, with supermarket chains/large retailers being the key players** in setting product requirements and influencing the markets and consumers choices

Seafood production has transitioned to **farmed species**, but is **insufficient to cope with consumers demand**, mostly being imported



Seafood processing is essential to maintain the **quality** and avoid waste, but is an **environmental (water) and energy demanding industry**



Permanent monitoring and solutions are implemented for anticipating hazard outbreaks



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Challenges

Production



Optimize fish feed formulation in aquaculture production and implement better on-farm ethical feed management practices

Intensify aquaculture production and diversify species, production systems and practices; strength genetic improvement and domestication



Focus on the sustainable utilization of existing fisheries resources



Decrease the environmental impact of aquaculture on coastal ecosystems

Ensure production, distribution and consumption in a way that is trustful, traceable, socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and secure

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Challenges

Seafood processing



Make available innovative cost-effective and environmental-friendly seafood processing technologies

Implement intelligent packaging/shelf-life and processing towards new products with higher consumer acceptance



Higher volume of raw material available at affordable costs and decrease the dependency on imports from foreign countries through a better management of fish stocks, discard ban and landing obligation



Implement quality certification schemes for seafood and strength market availability of healthy, safe and tailor-made products

Implementation of fast screening methods for seafood quality and hazard assessment

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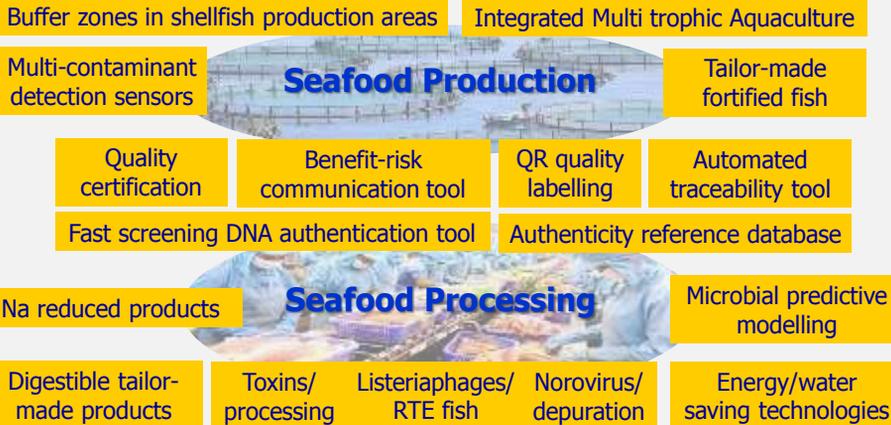
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Promising solutions



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Concluding remarks

The challenges can be addressed in different ways:

- Implementing policy actions that lead to less bureaucracy, sustainable strength of the European socio-economy and ensure the trust of consumers in seafood quality
- Involving all actors in the decision-making process (industrials, consumers and researchers)
- Strengthening the innovation capacity of SMEs through multi-disciplinary approaches
- Understanding the needs and vision of all actors through multi-sectorial collaboration (policy makers, industry and consumers)
- Understanding the future societal challenges (ex. climate change), assessing the consequences to the different actors (e.g. Consumers, industrials) and implementing mitigation and action plans
- Strengthening funding programs for the development of innovation actions that improve European industrial competitiveness in this food sector
- Strengthening the education of consumers and industrials focusing on seafood quality and safety

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