

“ASEFAF”

Access to south European finfish aquaculture facilities

In order to contribute to the competitiveness of the European Community and to the quality of life of its citizens, an RTD and Training Programme on "Improving the human research potential and the socio-economic knowledge base" was launched by the European Commission with the objectives

- *to improve and help develop the knowledge potential of European researchers, engineers and technicians through greater support for the training and mobility of researchers and by enhancing access to infrastructures;*
- *to mobilise and strengthen the socio-economic knowledge base so as to identify economic and social trends and requirements, both current and future.*

As a part of this programme, the European Commission and IFREMER (France) agreed to provide **transnational** access for all European research and development teams (including aquaculture SMEs) through an initiative entitled “**Access to South European Finfish Aquaculture Facilities**” (ASEFAF).

The main objectives were

- to offer facilities to European researchers for experiments they could not undertake in their own lab; and
- to provide them all technical assistance to achieve useful and relevant trials and tests in the field of finfish aquaculture.

The project provided 29 experimental units in two IFREMER centres. The experimental hall of IFREMER Palavas offered 12 rooms equipped with flow-through and recirculating sea water systems in Mediterranean conditions, while at the Brest station 8 outdoor units with flow-through sea water supply and Atlantic natural temperature were available. All necessary scientific equipment and laboratories were available, supported by a team with 25 years experience, with a specialised library on each site.

The research fields encompassed the following topics:

- Aquaculture in controlled systems (controlling the major processes involved in rearing, in order to answer the market demand in terms of price and quality)
- Genetics and reproduction (allowing better standardisation of final product quality and improving productivity)
- Fish nutrition (determining the nutritional requirements of fish and improving existing feed formulations)



RESEARCHERS AT WORK.
SOURCE: D. LACROIX/IFREMER.

Project acronym:

ASEFAF

Full title of Project:

Access to south european finfish aquaculture facilities

EU contract number:

HPRI-CT-2001-00146

Web-site:

www.ifremer.fr/asefaf

Coordinator

Mr. Denis Lacroix
Institut Français de Recherche
pour l'Exploitation de la Mer,
Laboratoire Pisciculture Marine
23, Chemin de Maguelone
34250 Palavas-Les-Flots
France

Phone: +33 467 50 41 00

Fax: +33 467 68 28 85

Email: asefaf@ifremer.fr

- Environmental physiology (determination of safe levels in terms of water quality)
- Immuno-pathology (focusing on viral pathologies, with special attention to stress assessment and welfare control)

A website was developed with easy access through the general IFREMER portal that offered access to practical information and application details.

From 2002 to 2004 onwards, 17 projects were accepted out of 25 proposals. 23 researchers from 11 countries visited the facilities with an average stay of 100 days. It resulted in 18 scientific papers,

including two from mixed teams, and 2 PhD theses in preparation after the ASEFAF stay.

The project therefore not only contributed to the progressive development of a **European network**, but it also demonstrated its capacity to achieve **good scientific research** work. This experience – giving the opportunity to mix teams and themes – will no doubt lead to more ambitious and multi-disciplinary experiments.

“ASEFAF PROVIDED 29
EXPERIMENTAL UNITS IN
TWO IFREMER CENTRES TO
RESEARCHERS FROM ALL
OVER EUROPE”



FIVE ASEFAF VISITING RESEARCHERS FROM THREE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES: ITALY, ROMANIA & THE NETHERLANDS (SPRING 2003). SOURCE: DENIS LACROIX/IFREMER