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Summary of the discussions held during the TECAM Workshop on "Aquaculture Feed Manufacturing Practice within the Mediterranean Region"

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The major points raised by the participants during the workshop discussions can be broadly summarized as follows:

(i) The lack of practical technical expertise and guidance usually given to farmers within most North African countries concerning feeds and feeding, often resulting in overfeeding and the application of inappropriate complete diet based feeding regimes for semi-intensive and extensive farming systems, *and the urgent need to strengthen local public sector expertise in applied aquaculture nutrition and feeding through in-country training and research for the benefit of farmers.*

(ii) The lack of cooperation between nutritionists working within the public sector institutions with the private sector, including feed manufacturers, feed ingredient suppliers, and farmers, *and the consequent need to strengthen cooperation through regular dialogue and meetings between the different sectors or stakeholders, and the implementation of well focused and targeted co-operative applied research and development programmes.*

(iii) The lack of understanding of most conventional aquaculture nutritionists and aquatic feed technologists of developments/trends/issues occurring within the much larger and more experienced/mature terrestrial farm animal nutrition and feed manufacturing sector, *and the consequent need for aquaculture nutritionists and aquatic feed technologists to monitor and follow developments within their counterpart terrestrial animal feed/nutrition agriculture sector, and so avoiding the re-invention of the wheel, and dealing with potential issues before they emerge into real problems.*

(iv) The problems usually faced by aquaculture nutritionists and feed manufacturers working within most North African and South Mediterranean countries are usually markedly different to those faced by nutritionists, and to a lesser extent feed manufacturers, working within most temperate North Mediterranean and Scandinavian countries, *and the consequent need to improve collaboration in aquaculture nutrition and feed technology between regions and countries through collaborative adaptive training and research programmes, rather than through the direct application of inappropriate feed manufacturing and dietary feeding strategies from North to South.*

(v) The lack of information and training opportunities on aquatic feed manufacturing technology within most North African countries and many South Mediterranean countries, *and the need to strengthen the national capacity of aquatic feed manufacture within these countries through the implementation of specific regional/national training programmes and through the development and use of practical regional technical guidelines on aquatic feed manufacture.*

The main recommendation of the workshop was that the draft *technical guidelines for good aquaculture feed manufacturing practice* prepared by Mr. Dick Stephen-Hassard and presented during the workshop be first edited by FAO (so as to conform with the existing 'Draft Code of Practice for Good Animal Feeding' prepared during the FAO Expert Consultation on Animal Feeding and Food Safety, held in Rome on 10-14 March 1997; contact point Dr. John Lupien, ESND) as a 'draft working paper' and then translated (subject to the availability of funds) for distribution (together with an accompanying questionnaire) to a representative sample of aquatic feed manufacturers within the countries of the region for comment and/or modification. It was also felt that the possible adoption of these guidelines could be facilitated through the organization of a similar workshop (targeted toward aquatic feed manufacturers) at a later date subject to the response received from the feed

manufacturers/countries contacted. During the present workshop, talks were also held with representatives of the European Feed Manufacturers Federation (FEFAC: Mr. Alexander Doring - Secretary General, Mr. Pat Lake - President) who were also attending the *II Conference-Show of Mixed-Feed Manufacturers of the Mediterranean*; FEFAC representing 14 private national feed milling associations from 13 EU countries (excluding Greece and Luxembourg) and also including Switzerland, or the equivalent of 40,000 private feed mills with a combined annual feed production of about 60 million metric tons or half the total EU manufactured feed output. The representatives from FEFAC mentioned that their Federation was also in the process of compiling 'FEFAC Guidelines for a Code of Practice for the Manufacture of Compound Feed' and would welcome the opportunity to comment/collaborate on the draft technical guidelines currently being prepared concerning good aquaculture feed manufacturing practice. Dr. Abdel Fattah El-Sayed (Egypt) offered to translate the edited draft guidelines into arabic prior to distribution to arabic speaking countries if so required.