

Sustainable Aquaculture – Environmental Impacts and Food Security

Berlin (Germany) - 16-19 October 2023

Call for Young Scientists

The Brazilian Academy of Sciences (ABC) is launching a call for the selection of 4 (four) young scientists (PostDoc with no more than five years after the conclusion of the PhD) resident in a country of the Americas (except for Brazil) with distinguished profiles to participate in the workshop “Sustainable Aquaculture – Environmental Impacts and Food Security”, to be held in Berlin from 16-19 October 2023. The workshop is jointly organized by ABC and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and aims to review, assess, and discuss current and emerging challenges for and needs in sustainable aquaculture. The outcome will be a policy brief published and distributed by both Academies.

Topic

Aquaculture is an activity that is rapidly growing worldwide, being developed in lakes, reservoirs, ponds, and coastal waters in tropical and temperate regions. Climate change affects where, how, and when water, specifically freshwater, becomes available as a resource. Unevenly distributed rainfall and droughts increasingly turn water into a limiting resource. The competitive use and scarcity of freshwater pose a challenge for aquaculture and food security. However, if sustainably implemented, aquaculture may serve as a resource-efficient and low-impact protein source for people around the globe.

Two thoughts guide the workshop: first, we want to assess the environmental impacts on and by aquaculture in freshwater and transitional waters. We urgently require a systemic approach in which water is viewed as a resource and an ecosystem. Second, we want to discuss aquaculture’s prospect as an essential component of the global food production system.

Pivotal issues for discussion include, among others

- the feed resources for aquaculture; eutrophication; aquaculture in lakes and reservoirs
- the impact on (and of) pollution, wastewater treatment, and water quality monitoring
- the introduction and potential risks of genetically modified and nonnative species
- the efficiency of aquaculture production, sanitary technologies, comparative approaches to regulations and laws
- the overall impact of climate change on aquaculture and vice versa

Format

The workshop’s intended outcome is to produce a policy advice report. This should be a concise scientific advice paper that gives an overview of facts, the current state of research, and recommendations on the way forward. The intended audience comprises policymakers and relevant stakeholders.

The policy advice report will be developed in two steps:

1. Prior to the workshop, all participants will meet in two video calls. Apart from getting to know each other, we will provide guidelines and key questions for elaborating the policy brief. Participants are asked to develop responses to these key questions. Ideas for drafting the policy brief are also discussed in these pre-workshop meetings.
2. The workshop functions as a writing event. Participants will work in groups on specific parts of the policy brief. The objective is to discuss and finalize the policy brief. Short presentations by scientific coordinators and invited experts will provide impulses. We will also organize field trips to aquaculture sites in Berlin.

What we offer

Selected young scientists will be invited to develop a policy report by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, and to participate in preparatory meetings, an in-person workshop in Berlin from 16 to 19 October 2023, and a joint writing process by the international team of emerging and senior scientists from Europe and the Americas. The organizers will cover local and publication costs. The nominating Academy of Sciences is expected to cover the air tickets of the selected candidate.

Who we are looking for

The workshop is intended to bring together emerging scientists from relevant fields connected to the theme of the event. Participants must be committed throughout the entire process (active participation and contribution during preparation of drafts, workshop, and finalization of the policy brief). This call is open to young scientists that meet the following criteria:

- Resident in a country of the Americas (except for Brazil – there is a specific call)
- PostDoc with no more than five years after the conclusion of their PhD
- Publication record in peer-reviewed journals on relevant field connected to the theme
- International research experience is an advantage

How to nominate

Candidates meeting the mentioned above criteria must be nominated by the Academy of Sciences of his/her country. Nominations must contain the following documents (written in English):

- Motivation letter (max. 400 words) that outlines your current research interests e presents how they relate to the overall topic of the workshop and would contribute to the policy brief
- CV with the information below:
 - personal data
 - list of publications and research projects
 - qualifications, career development and academic distinctions
 - engagement in the research system
- Biosketch (short biography in text format, incl. research interest, max. 250 words)

Nominations (including motivation letter, CV, and biosketch) must be submitted via e-mail (PDF format) to Vitor Vieira (vvieira@abc.org.br) by **25 May 2023**.



How we select

A selection committee of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences will evaluate the submissions. Selected participants will be informed about the results of the selection process by **15 June 2023**.

Workshop participation

The nominating Academy of Sciences is expected to cover the air tickets of the selected candidate. The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina will cover accommodation and board for the participants for the duration of the workshop.