



Water Workshop Series | Jointly hosted by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and the Academia Brasileira de Ciências (ABC).

Sustainable Aquaculture – Environmental Impacts and Food Security · Berlin, Germany · 16–19 October 2023

Call for Participation for Emerging Scientists

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina seeks eight emerging scholars with highly distinguished profiles to participate in the workshop “Sustainable Aquaculture – Environmental Impacts and Food Security” in Berlin from 16–19 October 2023. The workshop is jointly organized with the Academia Brasileira de Ciências (ABC). The workshop’s objective is 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 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 fish 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.

We will develop the policy advice report in two steps:

1. Prior to the workshop, all participants will meet during 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 scientists will be invited to develop a policy report by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, including preparation 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 South America. Participation includes funding of all travel and publication costs.

Whom we are looking for

The workshop is intended to bring together emerging scientists from relevant fields. This invitation is open to anyone who meets the following criteria:

- resident in Europe
- PostDoc with no more than five years after the conclusion of their PhD
- publication record peer-reviewed journals for the relevant field
- international research experience is an advantage
- commitment during the entire process (active participation and contribution during preparation of drafts, workshop, and finalization of the policy brief)

How to Apply

If you meet the abovementioned criteria, we are looking forward to your application containing the following documents:

- Motivation research letter (max. 400 words), written in English, that outlines your current research interests and reflects how your research interests relate to the overall topic of the workshop and how you would contribute to the policy brief
- CV; as an orientation, please consider the DFG CV form (https://www.dfg.de/formulare/53_200_elan/):
 - personal data, incl. current position
 - list of publications and research projects
 - qualifications and career
 - engagement in the research system
 - academic distinction
- Biosketch (short biography in text format, incl. research interest, max. 250 words)

Motivation letter, CV, and biosketch must be submitted in one coherent PDF document to Dr Thomas Ploetze (thomas.ploetze@leopoldina.org, Phone: +49 (0)345 472 39-834) by **30 April 2023**.

How we select

A scientific panel of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina will review the submissions. All applicants will be informed about the results of the selection process **by 15 May 2023**.

Workshop Participation

There is no registration fee to attend the workshop. Leopoldina will cover the cost of travel, room, and board for the selected candidates for the duration of the workshop according to the German Travel Expenses Act (Bundesreisekostengesetz, BRKG). Please consult the general [data protection statement](#) of the Leopoldina. The organizers will circulate further information about the workshop.