



COST Action FA1305 'EU Aquaponics Hub' unites a heterogeneous group of scientists, researchers and SMEs from across the EU and around the globe to better understand the state of knowledge in aquaponics in Europe and around the world and to facilitate innovation and education in this field of sustainable fish and vegetal food production.

Funded Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM):

Plant production capacity and nutrient mass balance in the PAFF Box, an urban aquaponic module

The PAFF Box, an aquaponic prototype built at the University of Liège Integrated and Urban Plant Pathology Laboratory, consists of a shipping container topped by a greenhouse. Water recirculates in a loop, from the container containing the fish tank and water treatment units, to the greenhouse containing the hydroponic grow beds.

We are looking for a PhD or early career postdoctoral researcher (less than 8 years since the award of the PhD) who is motivated, committed to innovative research and who is interested in conducting an in-depth experiment focusing on managing plant production and nutrient levels in aquaponics. This research will also investigate the water and energy used. The work will furthermore involve the use of mass balancing models and compare them with data registered in the PAFF Box system.

We are looking to award a grant to a PhD student or early career postdoctoral researcher to undertake a Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) for ten weeks in the period between mid-July to September 2015 in order to conduct the experimental work outlined above. Applicants should have good lab skills, and knowledge of aquaculture and horticultural techniques would be very desirable. The researchers will work together with our Aquaponics team, consisting of plant and microbiology experts. The results of the work will be published. The researchers will be hosted by Gembloux AgroBioTech (University of Liège), Gembloux, Belgium.

A fixed grant of €2500 will be awarded to the researcher as a contribution towards the cost of travel, board and lodging. The grant will be paid after the successful completion of the STSM. Applicants must be affiliated to an institution located in a COST country participating in this Action: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom. According to COST regulations, STSMs are intended to facilitate scientists going to an institution or laboratory in another country; applicants from institutions in Belgium are therefore ineligible. The nationality of the researcher is not a bar to eligibility.

Applicants should send the following documents to Professor Haïssam Jijakli, Gembloux AgroBioTech, Integrated and Urban Plant Pathology Laboratory (University of Liège) (mh.jijakli@ulg.ac.be) by **15 June 2015**:

- CV (max 2 pages)
- Letter of motivation
- List of publications

For informal enquiries contact: Haïssam Jijakli (mh.jijakli@ulg.ac.be).