



Aquaculture Innovation

Forum 6-7 September 2022

An interview with



MSD
Animal Health

Ahead of the Aquaculture Innovation Forum, 6-7 September in London, we sat down with Dafydd Morris, General Manager, MSD, to discuss their thoughts on the future of the aquaculture industry.

What are the biggest challenges for the future aquaculture industry?

Aquaculture sectors across the globe have aggressive growth targets. This presents a number of challenges from access to new production facilities, be they in the sea or land, or expansion of existing farms. This growth will also put strains on the supply chain, be it feed supply, access to the right bio-pharma solutions or production infrastructure, and also access to a skilled workforce. Sustainable growth will be key to success and will ultimately become a licence to operate. The industry will also have to ensure we bring Governments, regulators and most importantly the public along with us on this growth journey.

What is the one most important potential opportunity in the long run?

Whilst there has been a lot of focus on the opportunities presented by RAS systems globally there are still significant gains to be had by improving production from both existing and new

sea based facilities. New and improved innovative sea based production facilities I believe will be a key driver for future growth.

What will be the key success factors for growth in your segment?

MSD AH as a company is focussed on livestock welfare, and in particular fish welfare. This can obviously be driven by preventative health measures such as vaccination, but there are still major gains to be derived from the use of technology platforms such as intelligent fish handling and monitoring systems, together with bio-pharma solutions to continue the improvement in fish welfare and production gains.

How can sustainable innovation be driven across the value chain?

The aquaculture sector has grown rapidly over the past 30-40 years by adopting novel technologies and investing in the future, perhaps without too much focus on the sustainability aspect. This isn't just about reducing our carbon footprint, we need to promote the positive impact aquaculture has on our communities, providing sustainable jobs in rural areas, promoting fish welfare and ultimately providing a healthy sustainable protein for our ever growing population. We need to

have a co-ordinated positive message to the consumer, retailer etc. providing reassurance in the transparency and traceability through the value chain.

What is the impact of climate on the global aquaculture industry?

High quality aquaculture is dependant upon the environment within which they are farmed, be it Atlantic salmon, Tilapia or Shrimp. From an animal health perspective, what impact will changing water temperatures have on disease challenges in the aqua producing regions. Will we have to rely more frequently on antibiotics, will we be able to speed up the regulatory framework surrounding the development of new medicines?

On the flip side it may open up new production areas that were previously deemed uneconomic. Adaptability will be key.

Secure your place today to hear how MSD are improving the sustainability of the the livestock industry, and how technologies are successfully being used across different species.