Innovation in traditional ponds: experiences from Hungary

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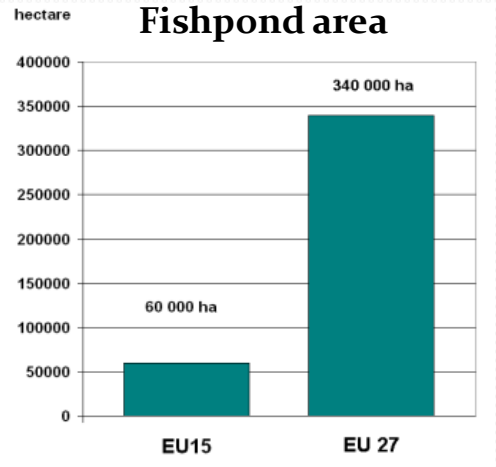
Role and potential of pond aquaculture

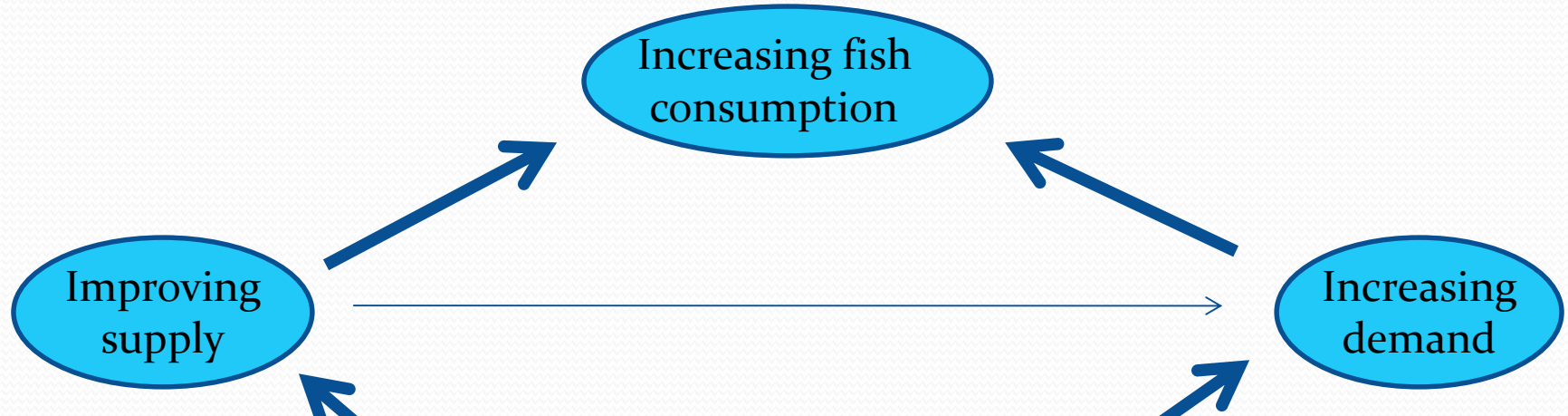
- 24,000 ha
- 85% of Hungarian food fish production
- Extensive or semi-intensive
- Mostly carp-based polyculture

- Lower productivity than intensive systems BUT:
  - Not fishmeal-/fishoil-based
  - Low-input production
  - Polyculture, integration (IMTA principles)
  - Quasi-natural systems providing environmental services, landscape value and recreation
  - Important in rural livelihoods

- Main challenge: How to increase production without losing the values of the ponds



Drivers of innovation



- Sustainable intensification
- New species
- New products
- Better quality

- Cost efficiency
- Energy efficiency
- Resource efficiency
- Sustainability

- Environment
- Food safety
- Animal welfare

- Marketing
- Attitude
- New experiences and services

Assisting innovation

- Most farmers know what their problems are and what should be done about them (links with research, knowledge of examples of best practices)
- BUT: low willingness to innovate

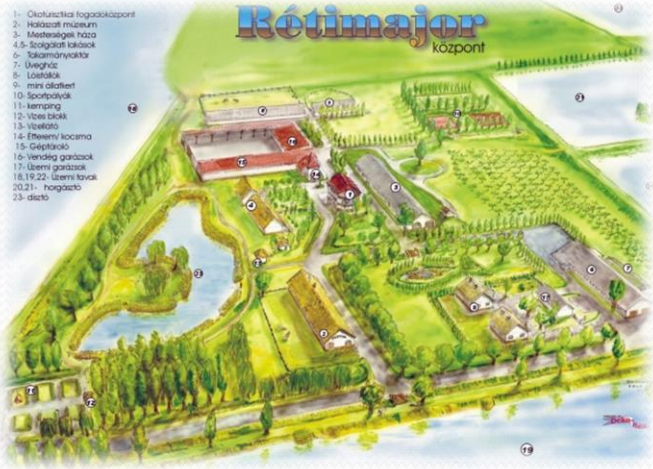
- Enabling legal and financial environment (possibility to solve the problems)
- Adequate regulatory framework
- Multi-stakeholder platforms, information, communication (possible impact)

Enabling environment

- Administrative simplification
- Easier access to funding
- Clear aquaculture legislation
- Tax policies (VAT)
- Product certification
- Better information to farmers

Fisheries Operational Programme 2014-2020

- 51.8 M EUR (EMFF + HU)
- Strong focus on innovation
- Key development areas:
  - Energy and resource efficiency
  - Reducing environmental impact
  - Provision of environmental services
  - Diversification
  - Processing and marketing



Thank you for your attention!