# Aquafeed offers bright spot in global feed survey

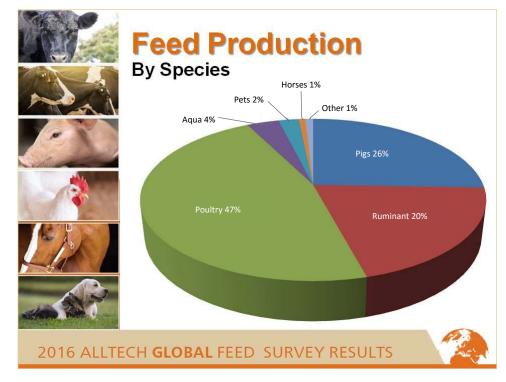
India is currently the brightest spot as far as future growth in the production of aquafeed is concerned, according to feed additive giant Alltech, while production has slipped back in China, which continues to be the world's Number One producer of all types of animal feed, be it for fish, pets, pigs, poultry, or ruminants.

Roger Abbott reports.

This is revealed in Alltech's 2016 Global Feed Survey, which estimates international feed production at 999.95 million metric tons, a 1.5% increase over last year and a 14% increase since the company first published global feed survey results in 2011. The survey assesses the compound feed production from more than 130 countries through information obtained in partnership with local feed associations and members of Alltech's sales team, who visit more than 32,000 feed mills annually.

"The aquafeed numbers don't reflect the strong growth in this sector. I see definite improvement over five years and I am confident aquaculture is becoming a more and more important business."— Aidan Connolly

Presenting the results towards the end of January, Alltech's bullish-sounding chief



innovation officer, Aidan Connolly, said the analysis of five-year trends showed growth predominantly in the pig, poultry and aquafeed sectors, with intensification of production in the African, Middle Eastern, Latin American and European regions.

However, Connolly said it was "a story of continued growth in India, where aquafeed production, in particular, has been growing year on year and is expected to reach 1.16 million metric tons in 2016". This compares with 1.00 million tons in the USA and 0.94 in Brazil.

AQUAFEED TOTALS  BY REGION						
Region	Aqua					
Africa	0.55					
Asia Pacific	26.13					
Europe	3.17					
Latin America	3.52					
Middle East	0.34					
North America	1.76					

China is still far ahead with an estimated 17.30 million tons of aquafeed.

Although the total global production of aguafeed was down 5% to 35.47 million metric tons this year, it still accounted for 4% of the total global feed production and Connolly said the decline in the figures seemed to relate to more accurate data collection and not a specific decline, "especially given that aqua has been a grower, up 19% overall in the past five years". He pointed out that fish farmers had also become more efficient, which had led to a fall in the amount of feed they needed – but he was confident of future growth as consumer demand for fish continued to rise throughout the world. He was unable to give a breakdown of the production of aquafeed for different species.

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### TOTAL FEED BY SPECIES (MIL. METRIC TONS)

PIGS	253.53	AQUA	35.47
RUMINANT	201.30	PETS	22.59
POULTRY	463.69	HORSE	8.22

#### TOTAL 10 IN-DEPTH RESULTS

Country	Total Mil Tons	Pig	Dalry	Beef	Calf	Layer	Broller	Turkey	Aqua	Pets	Equine
China	179.93	75.50	4.90	2.00	0.01	28.00	49.00	0.00	17.30	0.42	0.01
USA	173.73	25.67	20.82	22.61	0.08	24.69	59.92	7.02	1.00	8.45	3.00
Brazil	68.70	15.70	5.30	2.73	0.01	5.50	30.90	1.50	0.94	2.43	0.60
India	31.54		8.26		0.08	9.34	11.60	0.00	1.16	0.38	0.01
Mexico	31.11	4.96	4.80	3.51	0.24	4.05	11.44	0.05	0.23	0.90	0.30
Spain	29.38	15.24	2.65	3.53	0.13	1.79	3.04	0.38	0.13	0.35	0.19
Russia	29.09	9.60	2.70	0.40		4.20	10.45	0.74	0.04	0.59	
Germany	23.87	9.66	6.91	0.00	0.16	2.15	2.74	1.40	0.02	0.53	0.11
Japan	23.38	5.63	3.15	4.44	0.00	6.20	3.81	0.00	0.30	0.31	0.00
France	21.20	5.09	3.50	1.50	0.43	1.80	3.50	1.14	0.10	1.25	0.25

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confident aquaculture is becoming a more and more important business,

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–Peter F. Drucker

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especially as statistics show that farmed fish production exceeds that caught in the sea and that the consumption of fish products exceeds beef consumption," he said.

The 2016 survey showed poultry feed still has the market share and is growing faster than any other species, with 46% of total global feed manufactured specifically for broiler, egg layers, turkeys, duck and other fowl. The top 10 feed producers in the world remained the same: China, the USA, Brazil, Mexico, India, Spain, Russia, Germany, Japan and France. As far as regions are concerned, Europe saw the most growth, up 13 million tons over last year, with the largest contributions coming from Russia (29.09 million tons, of which 0.04 million tons was aquafeed), Turkey, Belarus and Poland.

Down 2% from last year, China still holds the title of leading feed producer in the annual feed survey with 179.93 million tons manufactured throughout the country's 8,550 feed mills. However, this is third year the world's leader has reported a consolidation of its feed tonnage production into a smaller number of feed mills.

The number of feed mills in the United States and Brazil, the second and the third largest markets, also declined. The U.S. produced 173.73 million tons from 6,012 feed mills (6,718 mills in 2014) and Brazil manufactured 68.7 million metric tons from 1,556 feed mills (1,698 mills in 2014).

Europe and Russia's 5,545 feed mills augmented their production by 4.5% in 2015 compared to the previous year. The Middle East tonnage fell 7% with 21.44 tons

from the region's 719 mills. Africa, North America and Latin America were up 4, 2% and 3% respectively. The Asia-Pacific region's growth was relatively flat at 0.4%.

According to Connolly, the consolidation of feed production into fewer mills is driven by many factors. "The Chinese, in particular, see a benefit of having fewer feed mills—lower cost, more efficient and easier to control from the perspective of traceability and food safety," he said.

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