

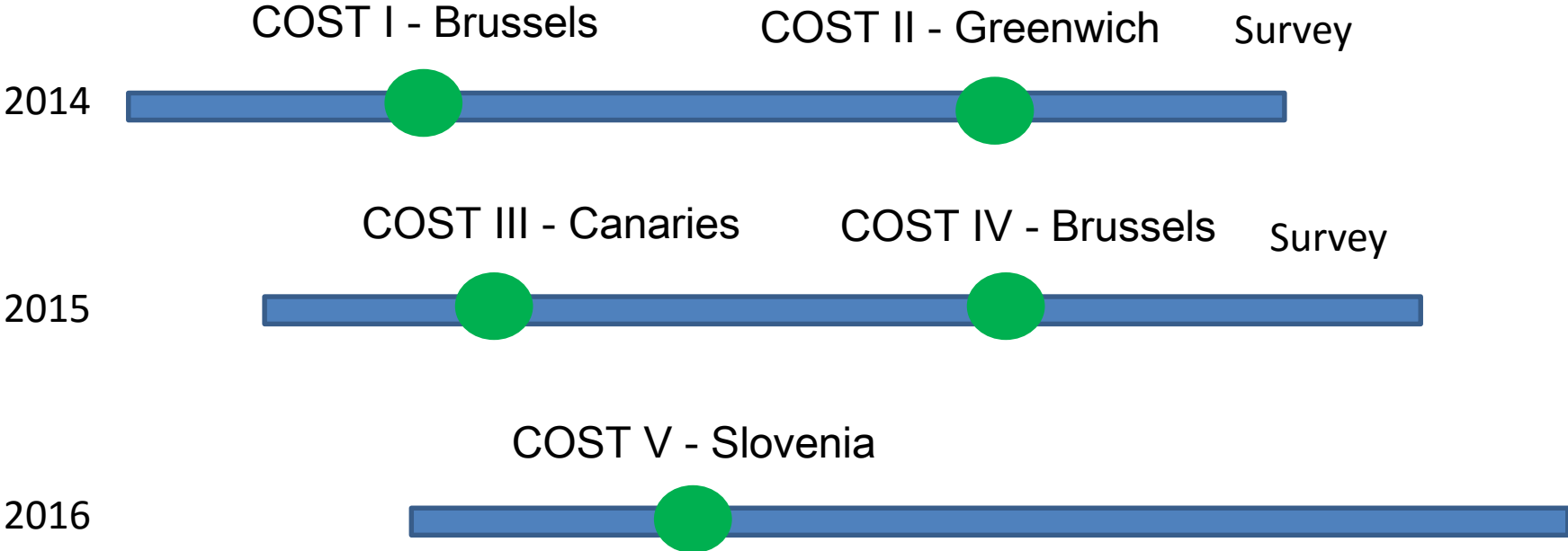
# Aquaponics in Europe: Who is Who?

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# Survey: 1 year in the making



## Searching for an aquaponic princess

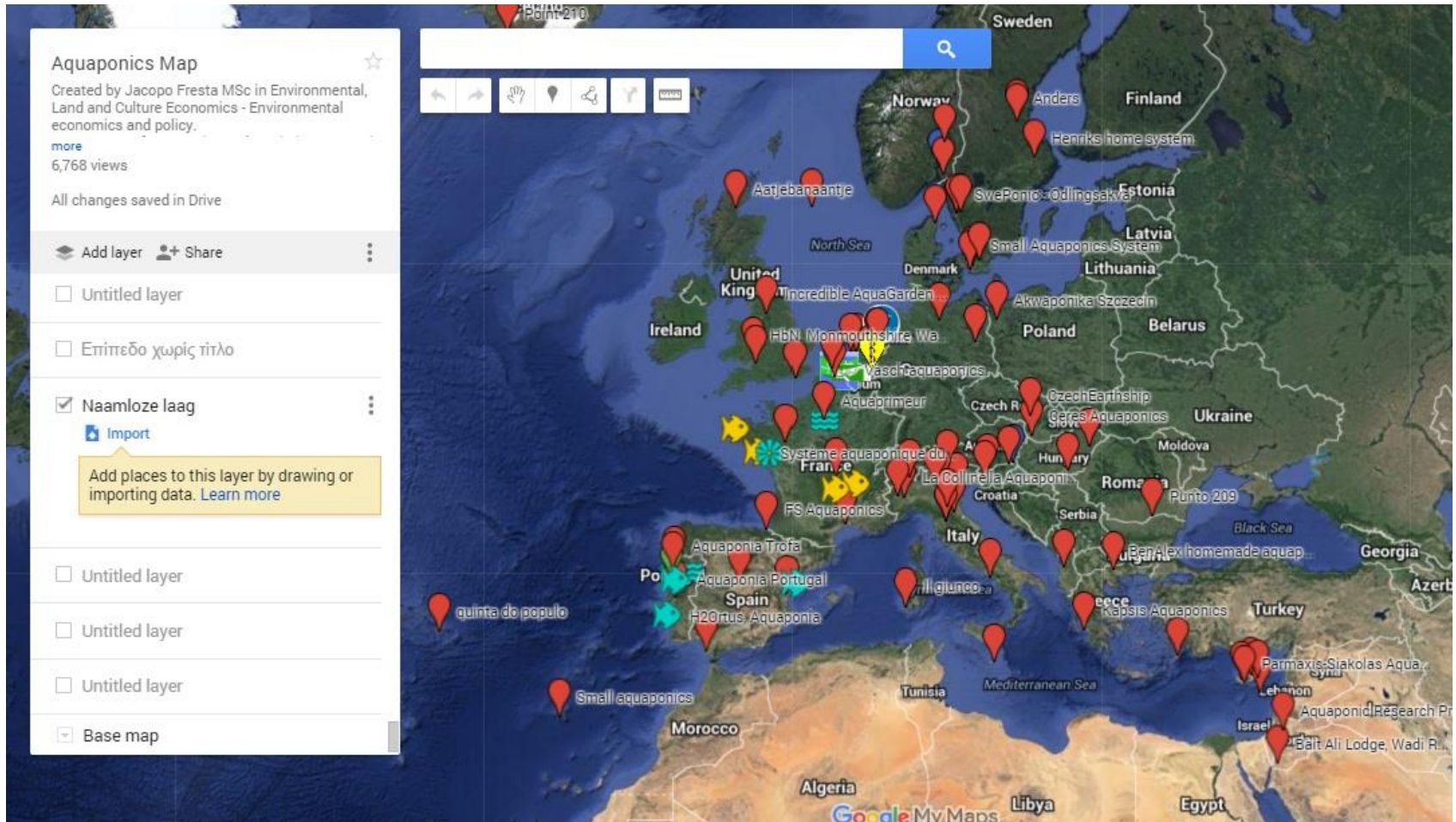
Report from Work Group 1<sup>1\*</sup>: COST FA 1305

### Summary

This brief report describes the results of a survey sent out to all members of our COST-FA1305 group regarding current activities in aquaponics. The findings are grouped into five categories (demographics, facilities, fish and crops, funding and priorities), and have been used to help underline what is lacking in the field. Our main conclusion is that a European aquaponist is quite unique if she happens to be female, under 30 years old, knows about plant and fish diseases, has money to invest and is producing more than 100 kg of fish and plants to help improve consumer health and people's sense of community, i.e., we need an Aquaponic princess.

<https://euaquaponicshub.com/>

# World map of Aquaponics: Jacopo Fresta



<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=zO2DpFcwfVDU.kh4zqKIWskog>

# Love et al. 2014

-809 replies

-90% USA, Canada, Australia

<10% EU

 **OPEN ACCESS** Freely available online

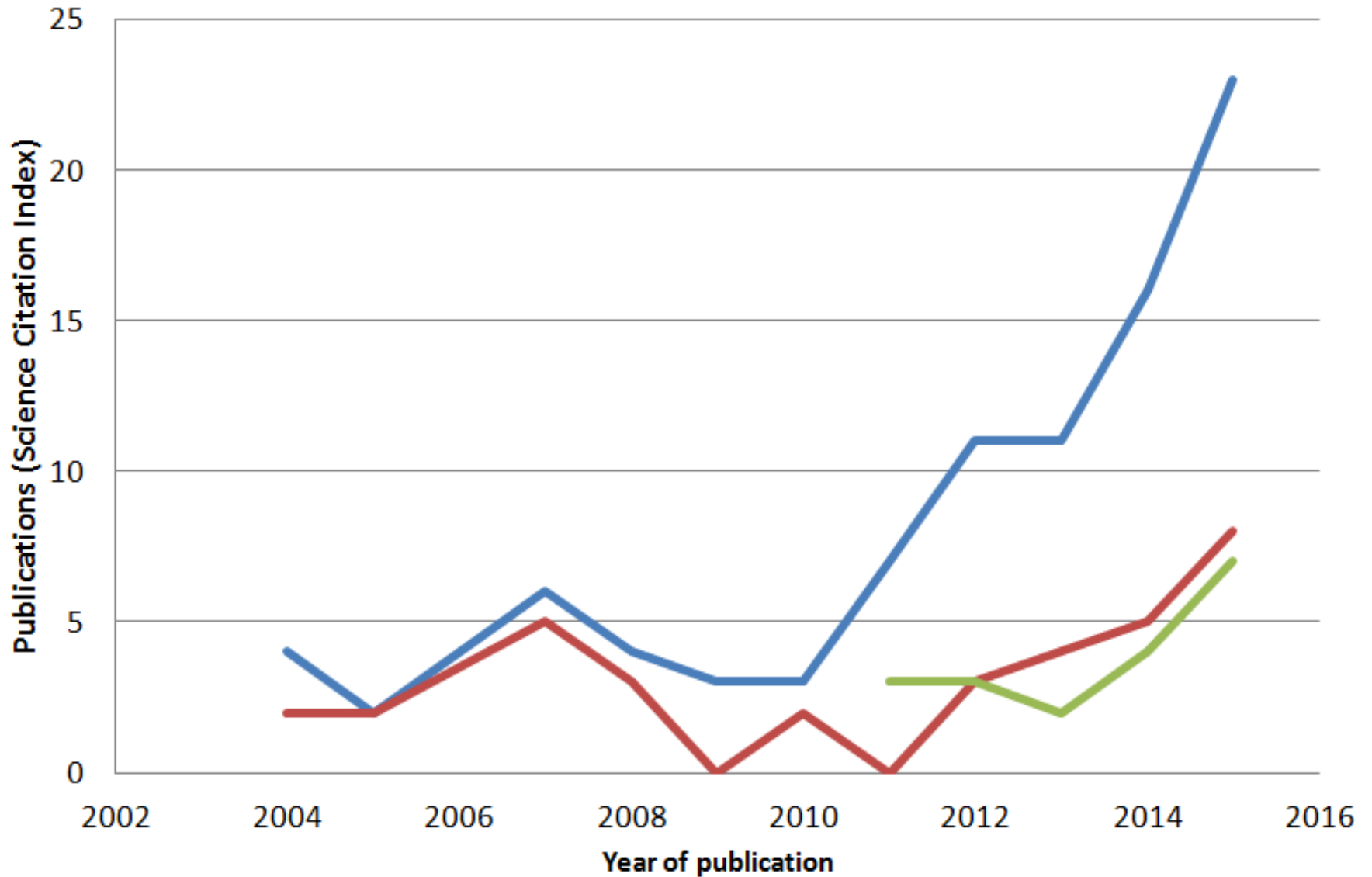
 **PLOS** | ONE

## An International Survey of Aquaponics Practitioners

David C. Love<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Jillian P. Fry<sup>1,2</sup>, Laura Genello<sup>1,2</sup>, Elizabeth S. Hill<sup>3</sup>, J. Adam Frederick<sup>4</sup>, Ximin Li<sup>5</sup>, Ken Semmens<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America, <sup>2</sup> Department of Environmental Health Sciences,

# International publications



# COST Greenwich meeting

- 26 countries  
contacts

- Simplify  
25 questions

- Survey monkey

# Survey with five sections

Demographics  
Facilities  
Fish and crops  
Funding  
Priorities

## status of aquaponics

1. What is your primary interest in aquaponics?

- Education and training
- Commercial production
- Reserach

68 replies, 18 countries



# Demographics

**EU**

41% universities

66% male

54% PhDs

63% >40 years old

**Love *et al.***

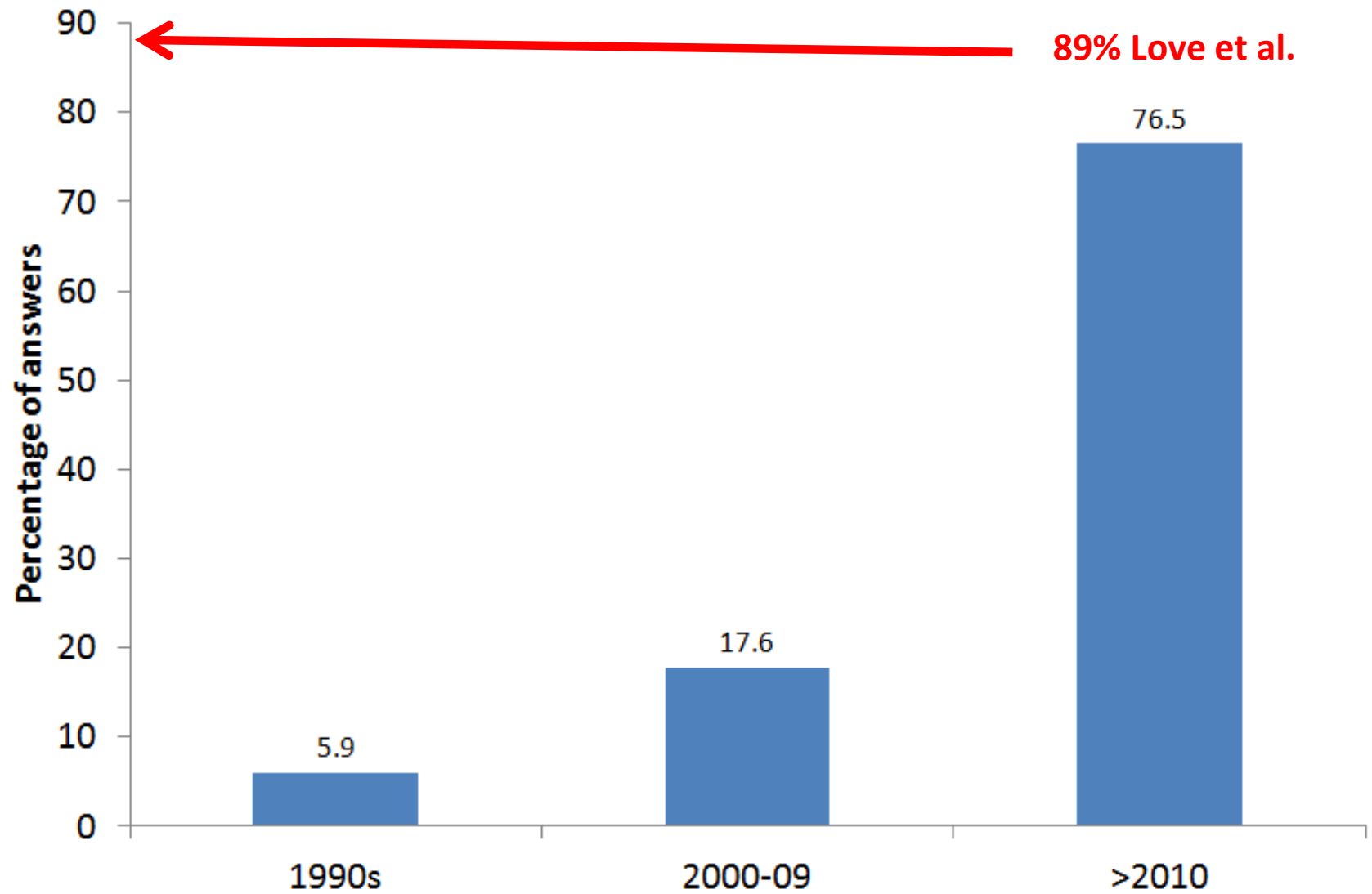
7%

78%

24%

47 yrs

# When start first unit?



# Facilities

**EU**

***Love et al.***

84% self designed	83%
<b>66% rafts and media beds</b>	86%
54% less than 100m <sup>2</sup>	-
90% with filters	-
<b>15% on rooftops or at home</b>	3%

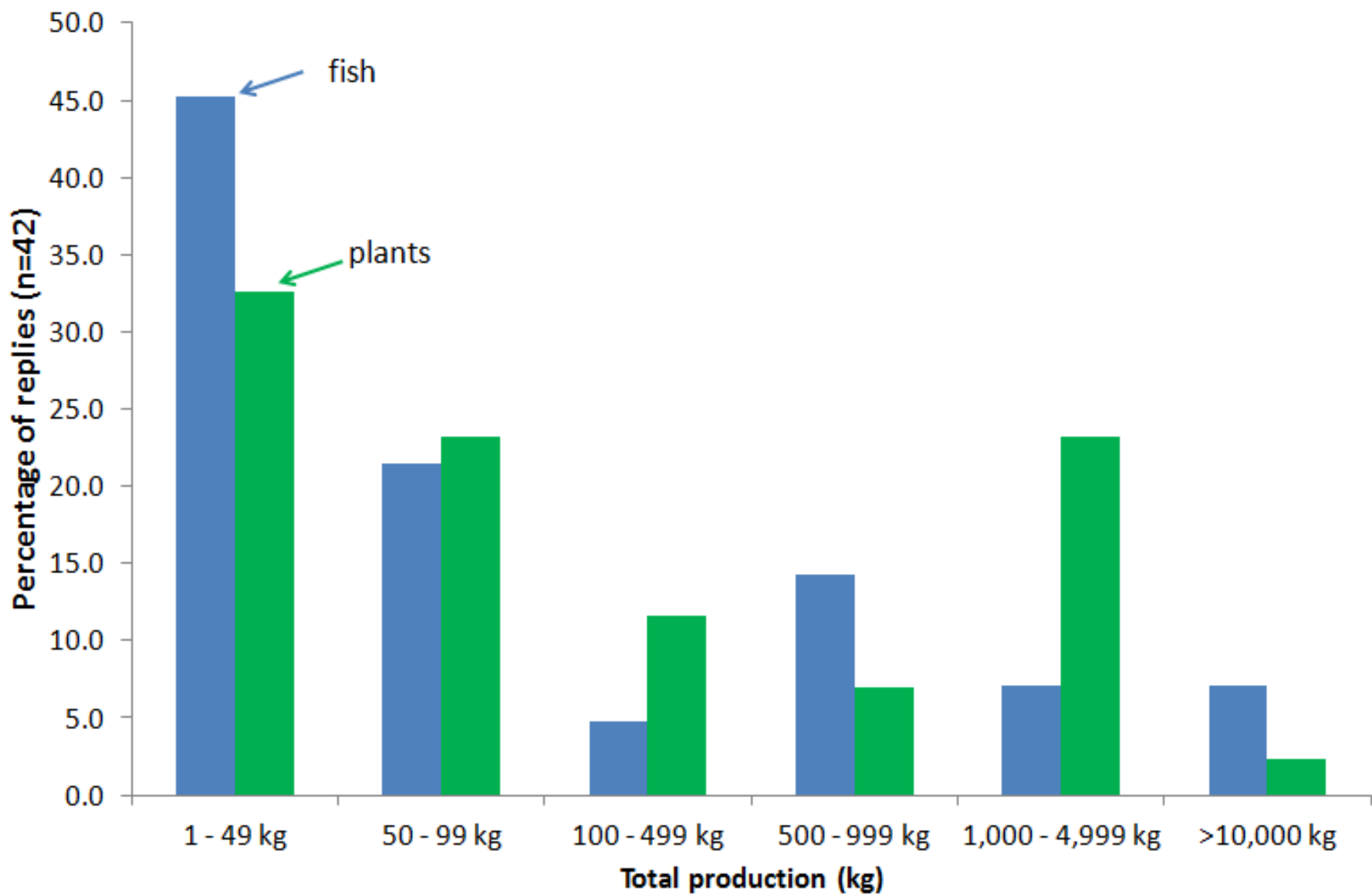
# Fish and plants

Fish:

Tilapia, catfish, trout

Plants:

Basil, salad greens, lettuce



Production of more than 1 metric tonne per year: 5 companies



# Funding

50% government grants (14% courses)

90% not primary production

54% less than 5000 € investment\*

n=3, >500.000 €

Sales (last 12 months), 78% none

1 partner, >100.000 €

\*in past 36 months

# Priorities

50% Education and Sustainability  
few for health, community

Least expertise:

plant pests, fish diseases  
nutrient deficiencies



# Conclusions: aquaponics in EU?

## Survey

demographics:	OM
facilities:	new, (<kit)
fish and crops:	little production
funding:	little investment
priorities:	sustainability

What are we not doing?

# Conclusions: uniqueness

female < 40

producing > 100 kg of fish and plants

have money

know about fish and plant diseases

care about personal health, community

If this is you, you are unique in aquaponics