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Workshop:

Industrial Symbiosis for Efficient Resource Use and Circularity

Date: Tuesday, November 14th, 2023

Theme: Aquaculture



Industrial Symbiosis (IS) is more than a brilliant idea; it's a collaborative approach that brings together companies from different sectors. It's about creating synergies, forging connections, and building supply chains that are not just economically viable but also environmentally and socially responsible. This approach is no easy task; it requires deep knowledge of industrial processes and business/social relations. The objective of the workshop was to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and explore the potential of creating synergies between sectors. The session started with a brief presentation by the speakers where they shared their background and current activities, this was followed by a moderated discussion.

Speakers

Stina Gottlieb, Sotenäs Municipality (SE) | **Elise Dhale**, Land Meets Ocean (NO) | **Annette Løttrup-Moore**, Business Lolland-Falster (DK)

Moderator: Tom O. Kleppestø, Ocean Industry Forum Oslofjord (NO)

During the discussion, the need to transition from linear to circular processes was highlighted. Explaining the circular economy approach—narrow: use less, slow: use longer, close: use again, and regenerate: make clean—the regeneration part is challenging to communicate and implement. It's crucial to share good practice examples to help stakeholders understand the potential of industrial symbiosis.

To foster IS, creating accessible business models is essential for scaling up these setups. These models should internalize externalities. Moreover, promoting investment in IS requires a shift from a short-term to a long-term mindset and from an economy of scale to an economy of scope, where efficiencies come from variety, not necessarily volume. Additionally, reclassifying materials, side-streams, and residuals is imperative to extend the productive resource life, generate revenue, and promote sustainable resource management.





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In industrial symbiosis networks, trust is pivotal for success. Regional business organisations and municipalities play a key role by providing a neutral ground for industries to connect and create synergies, fostering trust between parts. Trust is a significant challenge when replicating industrial symbiosis setups in other regions.

Beyond industrial symbiosis, there is social symbiosis, which plays a crucial aspect for the success of projects. People, and especially the local community, are key to the growth and expansion of IS networks.

While there are numerous challenges in implementing industrial symbiosis, one highlighted from this session is the commitment to fostering circular practices. Through collaboration among actors, industrial symbiosis can be advanced.