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Aquafeeds

Canadian collaboration aims to expand canola for aquaculture feed

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By Responsible Seafood Advocate

Onda and the Canola Council of Canada to explore canola's effect on growth, disease resistance and environmental impact

Onda, Canada's largest contract research organization specializing in aquaculture, has partnered with the Canola Council of Canada (CCC) on an innovative Canola AgriScience Cluster research project.

The initiative explores the use of canola-based feed meal as a sustainable alternative in aquaculture production. By integrating this novel ingredient into aquafeed, the project seeks to expand the market for Canadian canola while promoting more environmentally responsible practices in the growing aquaculture industry.

"As global demand for seafood continues to rise, the need for sustainable practices in aquaculture has become more pressing than ever," said Myrna Gillis, Onda CEO. "By advancing research into alternative feed sources, Onda and the canola sector are helping the industry meet these challenges head-on while working to unlock new markets for Canadian canola."

Canola meal is a sustainable, cost-effective plant protein for fish feed, with a balanced amino acid profile. As the aquaculture industry seeks alternative feed ingredients, interest in canola meal is



A research partnership with Onda and the Canola Council of Canada aims to expand canola as an ingredient for sustainable aquaculture feed. Photo courtesy of Onda.

growing, especially given the long salmon production cycle, which offers opportunities for cost-effective feed formulations.



(<https://link.chtbl.com/aquapod>).

Onda, experienced in evaluating plant-based feed formulations, is leveraging its aquaculture health and nutrition expertise alongside the CCC's knowledge of canola production. This collaboration aims to deepen the understanding of canola as a key ingredient in high-performance aquaculture feed.

"This research will enhance our understanding of canola meal's nutritional value in aquaculture, helping to build market opportunities and further canola's value-added contributions to our food and feed systems," said Chris Manchur, CCC agronomy specialist and research lead.



A push for rapeseed as a viable aquafeed ingredient

One Germany-based company says rapeseed protein concentrate, or RPC, can help aquafeed manufacturers meet growing demand.



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The 18-month research project will assess the use of Canadian canola meal in fish feed, focusing on its effects on growth, disease resistance and environmental impact. Objectives include updating nutrient digestibility values, generating new aquaculture data and conducting a life cycle analysis of canola meal in salmon feed. Onda's Nutrition, Health, FeedTech and LabTech units will lead the study, with results to be shared through collaborative research dissemination.

The findings are expected to contribute to more sustainable aquaculture production methods and support the industry's commitment to reducing its reliance on marine-based ingredients.

"This project provides an excellent opportunity to evaluate canola meal in a new light," said Ivan Tankovski, Director of Nutrition for Onda. "The digestibility and benchtop studies showed promising results, and we are now eagerly anticipating the results from the next trial to complete the picture."

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