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## **1. Context**

BIGH (Building Integrated Greenhouses) finances, develops and operates urban rooftop farms as a tool to implement circular economy, in order to increase property value and improve the quality of life in the city. The first urban aquaponic farm was built on the site of the former slaughterhouse “Foodmet” in Anderlecht in Brussels, where BIGH now grows tomatoes, herbs and striped bass. BIGH aims to develop other urban farms in Brussels and other European cities.

Aquaponics is an innovative agricultural production system that combines aquaculture with hydroponics. This system can be developed on small areas and therefore allows the development of short circuits and is resource efficient, thus reducing the pressure of agriculture on the environment. The BIGH Farm located on the roofs of the Foodmet in Brussels is composed of different innovative farming systems: an outdoor garden (2000 m<sup>2</sup>), an aquaponic greenhouse where mainly tomatoes are grown (770 m<sup>2</sup>), a greenhouse for herbs (600 m<sup>2</sup>) and a recirculating water fish farm (RAS, Recirculating Aquaculture System).

This RAS has a capacity of 170 m<sup>3</sup> (115 m<sup>3</sup> of production and 55 m<sup>3</sup> of MBBR) for a theoretical production of 25 tonnes of striped bass, sold between 350 and 600 grams. The fish is processed on site (raw or filleted) and sold directly to customers in short distribution channels.

Aquaponics allows us to use part of the water from the RAS which is renewed daily for the irrigation of the greenhouses and the outdoor garden. Hence the importance of working together on water quality.

## **2. Team & Mentality**

At BIGH, we are all passionate about sustainability. As a team member, you can work in this unconventional and dynamic environment. You must also be comfortable working in a multidisciplinary team and non-hierarchical organization.

## **3. General**

The AW is the executing aid to the aquaculture manager. His main responsibility is the execution of all tasks guided by the manager, except in moments of manager’s absence whose responsibilities then shift to the AW. The AW works mainly in the production of fish, processing of fish, follow-up of production numbers, follow-up of sanitary obligations and the management of possible aquaculture interns.

## **4. The aquaculture worker in the team**

The AW is under the management of the aquaculture manager and follows his instructions. He can possibly get instructions from the farm manager and the sales manager.

On his side, the AW manages the possible aquaculture interns who thus have to report to him or to the aquaculture manager.

The AW works with the whole team (aqua + horti) for the well-being and productivity of the farm.

## **5. Production of fish: tasks**

Execution of daily tasks as:



- Water analyses + reporting
- Feeding and treating fish
- Cleaning, maintenance, verifications, techniques of the RAS
- Counting dead fish + reporting

Execution of weekly tasks as:

- Weighting and sorting fish
- Put the fish in purging for sale and purging management
- Material and machine care and management
- Waste management
- Stock evaluation for all the inputs (feed, material, packaging, etc.)
- Taking care of night and weekend shifts

Etc.

#### **6. Processing of fish: tasks**

Execution of processing tasks:

- Control of weekly orders
- Killing fish
- Blooding, fileting, scaling the fish
- Preparing of orders for shipment
- Exit control

Etc.

#### **7. Production analyses: tasks**

The AW has the first view on the production numbers that he will report to the manager:

- Weighting, feeding, mortality: production number encoding + analysis
- Uploading of feeding tables, growing charts, analysis of the fish growth, batch tracking
- Inputs consumption management
- Veterinary treatments tracking
- Sales potential
- Juvenile purchase

Etc.

#### **8. Quality control: tasks**

The AW insures that the obligations of the sanitary institutions are followed:

- Temperature control (fish process)
- Cleanness control of different spaces
- Encoding on the different imposed registers
- Fridge entry control
- Fish water quality for hydroponics

Etc.



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#### **9. Other tasks**

As the farm counts a small number of workers, other tasks are regularly asked to the AW:

- Guiding tours of visitors on the farm
- Occasional work in the horticultural productions

#### **10. Desired profile**

- Technical training in aquaculture
- 2 years experience in freshwater aquaculture, particularly salmonids

#### **11. Skills and Knowledge :**

- Professional English
- Taste for teamwork

*Please send your application (CV and cover letter) to the following address: [contact@bigh.tech](mailto:contact@bigh.tech)*