



27-28 September 2016
Portugal

Seagriculture

5th international seaweed conference



Seaweed, the commodity of the future

Seaweed is increasingly contributing to our society becoming bio-based. As a new and sustainable protein source, we are gradually trusting on it as a commodity to produce our textile, bioplastics or even bio-fuels in case of an increase in energy prices. Seagriculture, the international conference on seaweed will go into the many different applications of seaweed that exist now, and paves the road for the future.

Seagriculture: where seaweed industry and academia meet!

This fifth edition of the Seagriculture conference will deal with the transformation from small individual businesses towards a bigger and well organized industry. In order to develop a sustainable, and economically sound industry, **the economic value of seaweed has to be enhanced while reducing production costs**. As the conference venue is Aveiro, Portugal, a special focus is on Iberian seaweed initiatives. The **keynote speech of Porto University's Isabel Sousa Pinto** informs us on what is being done and can be aimed for in Southern Europe.

Seaweed biology at the beginning of the value chain

In six plenary sessions, experts of various knowledge institutes and companies will share their expertise and insight in the seaweed industry. The **first session will focus on the very first beginning of the value chain: selection and breeding in order to get the highest yield or the highest quality** (or both). The resulting seaweed species will have influence in all links further on in the value chain. Speakers in this session include **Philip Potin of SB Roscoff, Banco Español de Algas' Juan Luis Gomez Pinchetti, and Claire Gachon of SAMS**.

Rules and regulations: necessity or burden?

Whether seaweed can be used for human food or animal feed is dependent on the traceability and the reliability of the food products. Norms and standards are being developed right now and the involvement of the seaweed community is highly needed. **Extra regulations may be a burden on each individual entrepreneur, but may also be the necessary prerequisite for the seaweed community to become a serious industry. In session 2, regulatory expert Sander van den Burg (LEI/Wageningen UR) deals with norms and standards.**

Towards an industrialized and efficient industry

To become a serious business, a thorough economic analysis is the base for improvements and developments. **Session 3 is directed at the improvements in seaweed business cases.** To what extent is upscaling a solution to make a business beneficial? Or is the first

SESSION TOPICS

Session 1 - Seaweed biology

Seaweed species & strain selection to increase yield and to cater to specific demand

Session 2 - Legislation and certification

An update on current regulation in place for the various uses of seaweed aimed at the consumer, and an exploration of different seaweed certifications and the need for global standards

Session 3 - The economics of seaweed farming

Financing the seaweed farm in different stages of development: from start-up to upscaling & practical business models.

Session 4 – The technology behind seaweed farming

An exploration of cultivation techniques, the challenges and developments enabling large-scale seaweed farming

Session 5 – Seaweed for high-end purposes

priority to increase/improve the financial benefit of seaweed? And what are the technological challenges that need to be overcome in order to make seaweed farming an industrialized and efficient industry? We have invited **World Bank's Randall Brummett**, and **OceanRainforest's Olavur Gregerson** to enlighten us on these matters.

The producer's dilemma

The possibility to **derive low volume high value products** from seaweed and the **change to produce high volumes of low value commodity** with a **constant and trustworthy quality** are two extremes of the spectrum of seaweed cultivation.

These three issues are the titles of session 4, 5 and 6. All these aspects need to be coordinated in order to further develop a sustainable and profitable seaweed value chain.

In session 4, we welcome **IHC's Bernardete Castro** to update us on a seaweed harvesting machine, **Frank Neumann of Seaweed Energy Solutions** on the challenges of upscaling in European seaweed farming, and **ALGAplus' Helena Abreu** on landbased farming.

Session 5 will host **Balakrishnan Prithiviraj of Dalhousie University**, **David Learmonth of Stematters** and **Algaia's Benoit Quéguineur**. They will go into high-end applications of seaweed, before we turn to **Jacques Mazoyer of Cargill** to hear about carrageenans, and seaweed for high volume products in general in Session 6. He is followed by **Olmix' Monique Ras** for seaweed in feed, **Philippe Lavoisier** for Ulva-based plastics and **Tom Wijers** for fish feed specifically.

For a more detailed description of the speakers and their presentations, please visit www.seagriculture.eu. Abstracts can be found under 'News'.

Conference organization

The conference organization lies with DLG Benelux, who leans on a sound advisory committee consisting of:

Helena Abreu – *ALGAplus*
Willem Brandenburg – *Wageningen UR*
Bela Buck – *Alfred Wegener Institute*
Bernadette Castro – *IHC*
Floris Groenendijk – *Imares - Wageningen UR*
Paulien Hoftijzer – *DLG Benelux*

Jacques Mazoyer – *Cargill*
Birgit Schmidt-Puckhaber – *DLG e.V.*
Pi Nyvall Collen – *Amadeite/Olmix*
Isabel Sousa Pinto – *CIIMAR/Porto University*
Klaas Timmermans – *NIOZ*

More information

All stakeholders are invited to contribute and to join the platform and conference held on the **27th and 28th of September** in Aveiro, Portugal.

For more information on the conference, the organizers, pictures, contact details of speakers for interviews, applications for press passes and barter deals, refer to www.seagriculture.eu or contact Suzanne Kroeze of DLG Benelux on s.kroeze@dlg.org

The application of seaweed components in medicine, cosmetics and functional foods

Session 6 – High volume products: food additives and bio-based commodity
Towards standardizing the use of seaweed components in feed, food and plastics

