

COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture

Tenth Session
Trondheim, Norway
23-27 August 2019



SIDE EVENT

Seaweed Aquaculture – Development Potential and Challenges

Monday 26 August - 12:30-14:00

The Side Event

The aim of this side event on *Seaweed Aquaculture – Development Potential and Challenges* is to discuss the future potential for seaweed production, particularly in regions where seaweed has not been traditionally grown, to highlight the key challenges in the sustainable development of this industry, and to discuss how the FAO initiative on Blue Growth and Aquaculture Biosecurity could safeguard this industry for future generations of farmers.

Background

Seaweed is the fastest-growing aquaculture sub-sector, with an annual growth rate of 10% and a value in excess of USD 5.0 billion. It is second only to finfish in production volume, and 95% of its cultivation comes from South-East Asia, East Africa, Latin America and the Pacific Islands. Worldwide, seaweed farming provides income to millions of families in rural coastal communities and has enabled women to become economically active, in areas where few opportunities exist.

The 10 final recommendations of the United Nations University (UNU) and Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) programme are entirely focused on the needs of seaweed-producing countries and its strong policy component enables to directly address 10 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals include; no poverty (1), zero hunger (2), quality education (4), gender equality (5), decent work and economic growth (8), industry, innovation and infrastructure (9), responsible consumption and production (12), climate action (13), life below water (14) and partnerships for the goals (17).

Objectives

The objectives of this side event are:

1. To provide an overview to participants of the strong growth of the global seaweed aquaculture industry over the last 50 years;
2. To provide evidence from industry perspective of the importance of this crop to economical, social and environmental development worldwide;
3. To share the future potential and lesson learned for the seaweed cultivation industry, particularly in countries with little traditional interest on seaweed aquaculture or consumption;
4. To highlight the key challenges to the industry, regarding policy on resource use, marketing, climate change and risks of disease and pests; and
5. To discuss a way forward.

Speakers

The speakers have been carefully selected to present a truly international perspective of the seaweed aquaculture industry. These speakers include representatives of FAO, regional experts and scientists on seaweed aquaculture worldwide.



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Output

Presentations and deliberations from this side event will inform the preparation of a technical document on “Seaweed aquaculture development and challenges” which is proposed to be presented at the 11th session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture in Mexico in 2021.

Provisional Agenda

Provisional Time	Title	Speaker/ Affiliation
12.30 – 12.35	Welcoming remarks and general introduction to the seminar	Chair and VIPs
12.35 – 12.45	Overview of the production growth and value of the seaweed aquaculture industry over the last 50 years	Mr Xiaowei Zhou Aquaculture statistician, FAO
12.45 – 12.55	Development and key challenges for the seaweed industry globally, with Europe as a case study	Prof Elizabeth Cottier-Cook Head of GlobalSeaweedSTAR Programme, SAMS
12.55 – 13.05	Opportunities of seaweed for Small Island Developing States – The example of seamoss farming in the Caribbean	Mr Shepherd Joseph Fisheries Officer, Saint Lucia
13.05 – 13.15	Development and key challenges for the seaweed industry in Latin America	Prof Ricardo Radulovich, University of Costa Rica
13.15 – 13.25	Opportunities for future development of the seaweed industry in Africa – a case study from Tanzania	Dr Flower Msuya Head of Zanzibar Seaweed Cluster and Research Associate, University of Dar es Salaam
13.25 – 13.45	Development status, key challenges and potential areas of growth for the seaweed industry in South-east Asia	Dr Anicia Hurtado University of the Philippines Visayas, Philippines
13.45 – 14.00	Q&A	Prof Elizabeth Cottier-Cook