



11th International Seaweed Conference EU

Seagriculture

29 - 30 JUNE 2022
BREMERHAVEN, GERMANY



Benelux

Lively exchange of information among experts at conference "Seagriculture EU 2022"

First face-to-face conference of the Seaweed industry in two years – 31 presentations on current topics - 131 delegates from 22 countries in Bremerhaven, Germany.

DLG BENELUX, a subsidiary of DLG International in the Netherlands, held the international conference "Seagriculture EU 2022" in presence again after two years, this time in Bremerhaven. The conference took place from June 29 to 30 and the program featured more than 25 speakers. The conference, which was held in Germany for the first time, brought together 131 experts from the seagriculture sector. The conference partners were the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) and BIS Bremerhavener Gesellschaft für Investitionsförderung und Stadtentwicklung mbH.

Raw material availability, competition for land and new eating habits are occupying both agriculture and the food industry. Reason enough to look curiously into different and new ways of producing raw materials for food and feed. Algae farmers cultivate micro or macro algae and harvest from the water instead of the field.

Algae have a very positive connotation in the new nutrition trend and are finding a wide range of uses as dietary supplements due to their antioxidant bioactive substances. The actual potential of the health-promoting application of macroalgae for the food technology industry and pharmaceuticals is far from being exhausted.

The eleventh edition of the Seagriculture Conference focused thematically on the cultivation of marine algae and the implementation of new innovative approaches. Keynote speakers were Prof. Dr. Bela H. Buck, marine biologist and head of the Marine Aquaculture Department at the Alfred Wegener Institute, and Paul Dobbins, Senior Director Impact Investing at the World Wildlife Fund. In numerous sessions, experts from various research institutes and companies presented their expertise on the following topics:

Seaweed production and plant scaling

Alexander Ebbing of Hortimare, Adrian Macleod of SAMS, Gediminas Tamošaitis of Metal Production and Urd Grandorf Bak of Ocean Rainforest addressed seaweed farming on large and small scales and presented new sustainable solutions.

Economics of seaweed farming

In response to the questions: How big is the European seaweed industry? Where can buyers and sellers meet? What about certification? Patricia Bianchi from the Aquaculture Stewardship Council and Jean-Baptiste Wallaert, founder of the seaweed marketplace "Place des algues", found answers.

Seaweed, ecosystem and social aspects

Seaweeds are more than just a product. They also provide environmental benefits, create new jobs and much more. In this session, Mar Fernandez-Mendez of Seafields and AWI reported on artificial upwelling, while Ferdi Knoester and Okke Meijer of Kelp Blue looked at local communities.



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Seagrass cultivation on land

Yu-Hsiang Weng, Dr. Anna Fricke, and Dr. Laurie Hofmann found new approaches to growing seaweed. This series of presentations provided information on growing macroalgae in cities, using cold seawater, and sustainable packaging solutions.

Seaweed projects

Johan Robbens of ILVO presented the "ValgOrize" project, which focuses on producing algae biomass with optimal flavor. Jaap van Hal from TNO spoke about the "AlgaeDemo" project. The goal of this project is advanced, mechanized algae cultivation on a hectare scale, remote monitoring with AUVs (autonomous underwater vehicles) and an accurate determination of the environmental impact of the demonstration farm on its surroundings. Finn Lillelund Aachmann took a look at the technology used by Norwegian research institutions to process seaweed. David Aldridge of Seaweed Solutions then spoke about improving seaweed growth with novel substrates.

Innovation Award

For the second time an Innovation Awards was organized by the organizers of Seagriculture, this year's Innovation Award was sponsored by North Sea Farmers. North Sea Farmers is an international non-profit membership organization for the seaweed sector, consisting of approximately one hundred very diverse members and partners. In total 3 Innovation Awards were presented by the jury: Gold, Silver, and Bronze. The Gold winner of this year was Dr. Sophie Steinhagen from the University of Gothenburg – Tjärnö Marine Laboratory with her application on Off-Shore-Ulva. Silver was for Alexander Ebbing from NIOZ with his SeaCoRe system innovation which introduces a new automatable way of delayed kelp gametophyte propagation. The bronze winner was for Rhianna Rees from SAMS Enterprise for her work on the The Seaweed Academy. The Seagriculture Innovation Award is open to all European companies, research institutes and other organizations involved in seaweed innovation.

Kuno Jacobs, Managing Director of DLG BENELUX was visibly satisfied and said, "After 2 online editions, Seagriculture EU 2022, which was held from 29 - 30 June in Bremerhaven, brought together the Seaweed community in Europe and beyond; 131 delegates from 22 countries met in a great atmosphere to discuss and exchange on current Seaweed topics. This in-person edition of Seagriculture once again underlined the power of meeting face-2-face."

The next Seagriculture will take place from 7 - 8 September 2022 in Portland, Maine, United States of America. The next European edition of Seagriculture EU will take place from 21-22 June 2023 in Trondheim, Norway.

For a more detailed description of the speakers and their presentations, please visit www.seagriculture.eu

More information

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 us info@dlg-benelux.com, Tel.: +31 85 401 73 97.