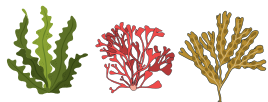



# POLICY BRIEF

## European macroalgae import



**382 060 tons**  
mix of dry weight/semi  
dry/fresh weight

mainly in the  
phycocolloid  
industry

➔ **65-85% of the total algal  
biomass is discarded as  
waste** 



**European algae  
production (1.4 %)**

## European microalgae production



**350 TONS**  
DRY WEIGHT  
*Circalgae estimation*

**EUROPEAN  
MICROALGAE  
PRODUCTION**

**650 TONS**  
DRY WEIGHT  
*EABA, 2024*

↓  
represents **less than 0.5%** of the  
global microalgae production

## WE NEED TO...

Accelerate and support algae cultivation



**Scale-up algae  
production**

Adopt innovative  
production models to  
enhance algae yield



**Simplify licensing &  
integrate algae  
cultivation in maritime  
spatial planning**

Make licensing process  
faster for offshore, near-  
shore and inland seaweed  
farms



**Enable the cultivation  
of high-demand  
species in controlled  
environment**

Support controlled algae  
cultivation to meet the  
market demand



**Showcase ecosystem  
benefits to improve  
societal acceptance**

Highlight carbon impact,  
biodiversity gains and  
other benefits of algae  
production

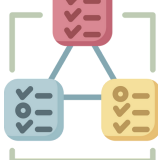


**Measure  
environmental,  
economic and  
social impacts**

Prove algae's role in the  
blue economy & circular  
bioeconomy

## WE NEED TO...

Remove regulatory barriers and harmonize regulatory landscape



**Establish a clear,  
supportive and  
coherent regulatory  
framework for  
microalgae  
production**



Encourage safe use of  
secondary input materials  
in algae production where  
appropriate



Utilize cost-effective  
fertilizers like Nitrogen (N)  
and phosphorous (P) for  
algae cultivation



Establish clear regulations  
for algae grown with  
secondary inputs or sourced  
from environmental  
remediation



Define the regulatory  
status of waste-fed algae  
products



**Harmonize and simplify European regulatory framework**

Standardize regulations across Europe with clear field-specific guidelines aligned with European laws



**Align feed and food safety regulations for contaminants**

Define thresholds for harmful substances based on portion size and toxicity



**Clarify the definition of novel food ingredients and feed additives**

Establish clear purity criteria, differentiate raw vs. extracted products, and streamline authorization processes



**Reevaluate testing and assessment requirements**

Review toxicological and genotoxicological testing requirements and reassess allergenicity risk assessments, protein quality, and digestibility

# WE NEED TO...

Promote acceptability of algae as food or food ingredients



## Encourage wider adoption of algae, particularly for food

Increase consumer awareness of the algae's nutritional and environmental benefits in daily diets



## Raise public awareness through targeted campaigns

Educate the public on algae's health benefits, sustainability and the role in circular economy



## Engage with educational institutions

Collaborate with schools, universities, and vocational programs to create curricula that train a skilled workforce for the algae industry



## Support the EU4Algae platform

The platform facilitates collaboration among European algae stakeholders and provides easy access to evidence-based algae informations

## Promote the establishment of regional clusters to facilitate the processing of co-products



Facilitate technology transfer from research to industry

Encourage the transfer of innovative technologies from research institutions to industry with licensing agreements and provide support for pilot-scale testing



Build open-access pilot-scale facilities for biorefinery processes

Establish pilot scale biorefinery facilities near co-product resources to support algae processing. These facilities should be designed to benefit all stakeholders



Enhance cooperation through biorefinery cluster

Foster collaboration between companies by creating biorefinery clusters (stabilization and transportation of co-products optimization, local collaborations...)

# WE NEED TO...

## Boost funding for applied research, development and scale-up



### Expand funding and subsidies for the algae industry

Offer financial support to drive growth and innovation in the algae sector



### Establish grant programs

Launch targeted grants for research, development, and commercialization of sustainable algae technologies



### Support standardization initiatives

Fund industry standardization efforts like the CEN TC 454, ensuring long-term support from DG Mare and DG SANCO



### Facilitate matchmaking between business and investors

Create platform that connect algae businesses with potential investors to provide financial backing for innovative algae-based solutions



### Create dedicated investment funds

Set up investment funds focused on sustainable algae innovations



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Food • Feed • Cosmetic



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