



Sustainable Development Management Solutions

PROJECT CONCEPT

Strengthening the Pacific Seaweed Industry

As custodians of the biggest ocean on the planet, Pacific Island nations are on the frontline of the Blue Economy challenge and rely on healthy ocean ecosystems for economic growth, food security and natural capital. Currently seaweed production targets the cosmetic and culinary industries. However, there are numerous other ways to use seaweed (whether sustainably harvested from the wild or cultivated) that Pacific island countries need to explore. Whether in animal feed, fertilizers, bio-fuels or in the production of compostable plastics, seaweed could support the Pacific's transition to a truly Green Blue Economy. Besides its commercial potential, seaweed has an important environmental role for the ecosystem services it provides.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of this project are:

1. To accumulate a body of knowledge on the seaweed industry in the Pacific and make this accessible to all;
2. To develop income-generating activities that provide employment to rural communities
3. To provide environmentally friendly solutions to the needs of the agricultural, industrial, tourism and transport sectors.

ECONOMIC VIABILITY

The expected deliverables include:

- Establishment of Seaweed Seedbanks;
- A Seaweed Knowledge Portal;
- A series of seaweed manuals;
- Establishment of pilot sites;
- Stories and videos published in mainstream and social media;
- Economic viability study.

ECONOMIC VIABILITY

The economic viability of the industry and its competitiveness would be the principle consideration of any further development of the industry. This initiative would explore a number of seaweed products, running them through a for-profit business to ensure economic viability.

FUNDING: Initial financing to the value of USD 1 million is being sought.

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