



## Tanzania adapts to climate change

Starting from zero in 1989, Tanzania's seaweed industry now employs 30 000 farmers, mostly on the Zanzibar islands, where it contributes around 7.6 per cent of the islands' GDP.

The industry is facing a huge challenge in climate change, which has [signalled a rise in pests and diseases](#) in crops and has highlighted gaps in biosecurity planning.

Seaweed evangelist [Flower Msuya](#), the research programme [GlobalSeaweedStar](#) and [The Nature Conservancy](#) are helping farmers adapt by identifying new native seaweed species to farm, [developing tubular nets](#) and teaching them how to swim.

As climate change gathers pace, their experience can surely guide other nations' adaptation strategies.



Steven Hermans,  
Editor

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### BUSINESS

## Spirulina makes mock meat burgers tasty

Back of the Yard Algae Sciences is [about to introduce a new spirulina-based "heme"](#) to flavour mock meat burgers.

Marketing tip for consumer-facing brands: the recently finished [EPIC Oxford study of diet](#) has shown that over 90% of vegans are deficient in iodine.

[Unilever is introducing a biomimetic cleaning technology](#) based on the seaweed *Delisea Pulchra's* ability to prevent biofilm build-up. First application: self-cleansing banknotes.

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### INVESTMENT

## US funding opportunity, Qualitas raises \$10m

In the US, the Department of Energy [offers a new funding opportunity](#) for projects focusing on the development of algae-based technology that

utilizes carbon dioxide from power systems or other industrial sources as a feedstock.

Texas-based microalgae producer Qualitas [has raised \\$10 million](#) in a financing round led by food-tech venture capitalist PeakBridge and holding company Minrav. Qualitas raised the money at a company valuation of \$73 million.

In Chad, [a project to improve spirulina growing practices](#) is part of an €8 million project by the EU's flagship climate change programme GCCA+.

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#### SCIENCE

### **Fuel cells from algae, Turkey's first microalgae biorefinery**

[Fuel cells from algae](#). Due to the low power generation, applications with dual function, such as wastewater treatment alongside power generation, hold the greatest potential.

[Boğaziçi University will build](#) Turkey and Europe's first carbon negative integrated biorefinery.

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#### CONSERVATION

### **Seaweed-munching crabs protect coral**

Experimentally increasing the abundance of large native, herbivorous crabs on coral reefs in the Florida Keys led to rapid declines in seaweed cover and, over the course of a year or so, [resulted in the return of small corals and fishes to those reefs](#). This opens up a whole new avenue for coral reef restoration

#### JOBS & CLASSIFIEDS

### **A platform for you**

Do you have a job or internship you would like to advertise? A message to the algae community? There aren't many readers yet, but let me know and I'll incorporate it into the next newsletter.

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### **P.S.**

And finally...[Kathryn Larsen](#) is a young designer using seaweed as an insulation and acoustics solution. She also designs lamps made from kombu leather.

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