



## The healing power of algae

Algae's pharmaceutical potential was in the spotlight this month as seaweed fucoidan extracts [outperformed remdesivir](#) as a COVID-19 therapy. Fucoidan is also known to [promote wound healing](#) and have [anti-cancer effects](#).

Meanwhile, spirulina grown under controlled conditions by Israeli-Icelandic start-up VAXA [have been shown to limit the release](#) of proteins that causes the infamous COVID cytokine storms.

Purissima is a pharma start-up that creates cannabinoids through fermentation of microalgae. [Agfunder explains](#) why they invested in their \$5.2 million Series A round.



Steven Hermans,  
Editor

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### BUSINESS

## Seaweed: egg trays, shoe laces and new producers in UK, Canada

[Seaweed-based egg trays](#) will hit the market next month, courtesy of South Korea's Marine Innovation.

At least one UK mussels producer already [has plans to switch to growing seaweed](#) to save their business after [Brexit's omnishambles](#).

[A long-term partnership between Flinders University and Australian Kelp Products](#) will research Southern Australia's seaweeds' potential for new vegan foods, bioinks and biopolymers.

Spanish shoe company Eldaplant [is going to produce shoe laces](#) (ES) from the Sargassum washing up on the beaches of Tarifa.

Canada's coastal First Nations [explore seaweed cultivation](#).

## Microalgae: oral vaccines and Euglena burgers

[TransAlgae](#) has signed an exclusive agreement with [Virbac](#), one of the leading animal health players worldwide, [to develop an oral vaccine based on TransAlgae's microalgal technology](#).

Altprotein producer Smallfood has [debuted a strain of microalgae](#) that can be grown in just 7 days using the firm's proprietary fermentation technology.

Japan's Next Meats and Euglena Co. have introduced a plant-based altprotein [with 500 mg of Euglena and 500 mg of Chlorella extract](#).

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#### INVESTMENT

### More millions for asparagopsis growers

After [FutureFeed's \\$9m round in August](#) and [CH4Global's \\$3m round in September](#), Sea Forest is the third Australian asparagopsis grower to get sizable funding to scale up production - [\\$1 million](#). Meanwhile, Dutch trials with other types of seaweed to reduce methane in ruminants [failed to produce the hoped-for results](#).

UK start-up Solublue [has won 500 000 euro](#) to scale up a new seaweed bioplastic solution.

By the way, if you want more Blue Finance news, subscribe to the [Oceanovate newsletter](#) - it's best in class.

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#### SCIENCE

### Spirulina becomes bee chow

Crab-shell and seaweed alginate [can be spun into a sturdy material with antimicrobial properties](#).

Spirulina's nutritional profile closely resembles pollen, and could be used as a [diet supplement for bees](#). Other microalgae could also fit the bill.

Could [solar drying](#) make the drying of microalgae proteins more sustainable and affordable?

Bioplastics from cyanobacteria are being trialled at the universities of [Tuebingen](#) and [Michigan](#).

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### P.S.

*As the sun sets, hordes of tiny crustaceans called beach hoppers [emerge from underground burrows to frolic and feast](#). They eat so much decaying seaweed and other beach wrack that by morning all that's left are ghostly outlines in the sand.*

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