

Recent developments in seaweed aquaculture and utilization in Vietnam

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Having long coastal line, over 3000 km, Vietnam has high potential in cultivation of seaweeds for food products and biofuel. Seaweed species cultured in Vietnam are diverse, have medium and small size, distribute in shallow water bodies with rather high biomass. The most popular harvesting species are Sargassum, Gracilaria, Kappaphycus, Porphyra, Hypnea, Eucheuma, Ulva, Monostroma, Enteromorpha, and Caulerpa. Currently, aquacultured seaweeds have been only used in large scale for production of food and feed products such as agar-agar, alginate, carrageenan. Recently, several species with prospects from an energy perspective have been preliminarily studied as a new biomass source for biofuel production. In this presentation, the recent developments, challenges and opportunities in seaweed aquaculture and utilization in Vietnam has been reported.