

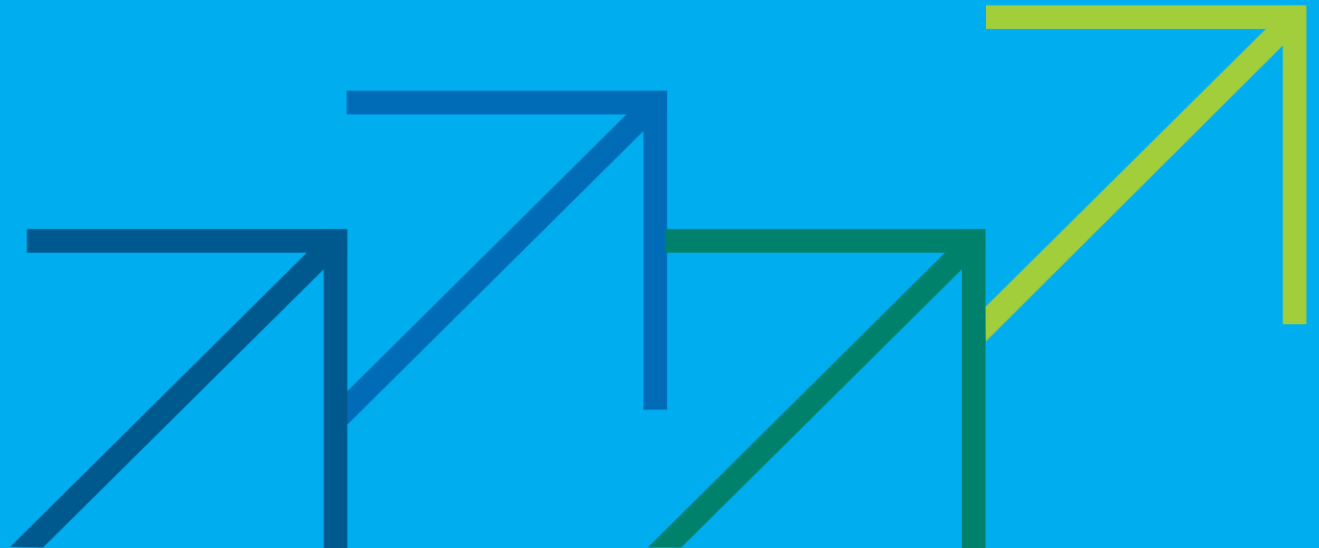


**KGID
2025**

**Green Growth:
The Path to
Sustainable Jobs**

SEAWEED SOLUTIONS:

Leveraging seaweed to lower emissions and increase competitiveness of food systems in Chile, Peru, and Ecuador



Overview

Team:



Katie Freeman. Lead Economist, SLCAG
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Countries:



Objective:

To identify key policy and investment opportunities in the seaweed sector for Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID) of coastal communities, including diversification in agrifood systems.

Key Facts

- Latin America accounts for only 1.3% of global seaweed production.
- Within the region, Chile contributes about 95% of the output, followed by Brazil (4.68%) and Mexico (1.15%).
- Only around 4% of seaweed is obtained from aquaculture, exerting pressure on wild populations.

What is being done?

Chile's has matured regulatory and processing base, Peru's pilot-to-export upgrading, and Ecuador's emerging concession-backed cultivation and biofertilizers

Where can we help?

Clearer scale-up pathways and investment in processing will determine how much income and job creation materializes

Engaging with a complete value chain



CONNECTION WITH MARKETS



SACALING UP

PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING

NEW MARKETS AND INNOVATIVE USES

JOBS, FINANCING AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Partners



General insights from our ongoing work

- Growing momentum among client countries for seaweed development, even as policy responsibilities remain fragmented across ministries and agencies.



Foster public/private working groups to enhance coordination for development

- Broad prioritization across countries of protecting native seaweed species, deepening understanding of regional impacts of seaweed cultivation (e.g., on sea currents), and sharing knowledge and experiences.



Knowledge exchange activities (Korea/Andean Countries)

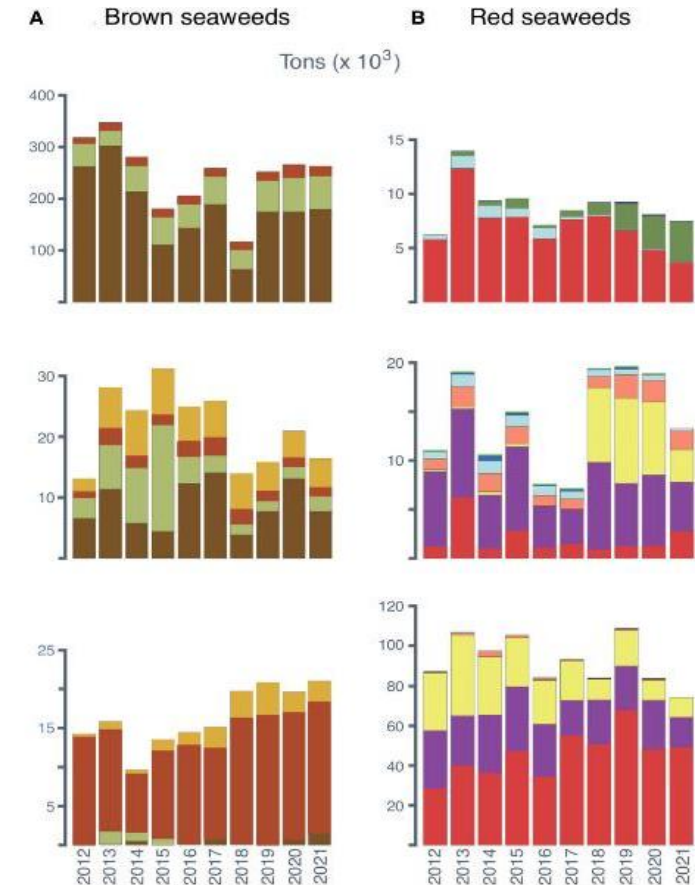
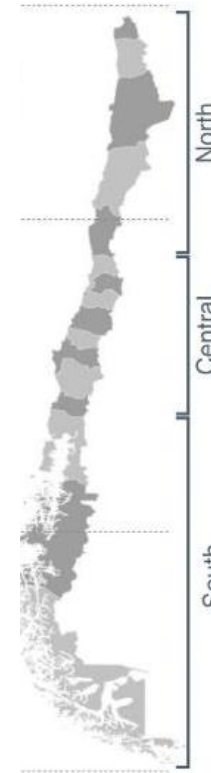
- High engagement from the private sector on blue carbon, bioremediation, and exploring linkages between seaweed and other productive sectors (e.g., salmon aquaculture in Chile).



Working with IFC and the AqualInvest Platform to align our investment

Preliminary insights from Chile

- Established yet under-optimized value chain.
- Strong foundations for upgrading.
- Key bottlenecks:
 - Lack of scaled cultivation systems.
 - Insufficient investment in advanced processing.
 - Limited capacity constrain the shift toward higher-margin products and broader economic benefits.



Preliminary insights from Peru and Ecuador

- Nascent industries with high potential.
- Limited value addition.
- Enabling environment gaps:
 - Fragmented regulations and inadequate infrastructure (collection, processing, logistics) hinder scale-up;
 - Pilot efforts in biofertilizers, biostimulants, and feed additives are emerging but not yet at commercial scale.





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