

Australian tech-firms to advance regenerative Seaweed farming in Southeast Asia

23 May 2023 | News

Oceanfarmr and Coast 4C collaborate to improve farm operations, finance, and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) monetisation for seaweed farmers.



Oceanfarmr and Coast 4C collaborate to improve farm operations, finance, and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) monetisation for seaweed farmers.

Australia's Oceanfarmr, a leading provider of ocean farm operations management solutions, and Coast 4C, a social enterprise focused on regenerative seaweed farming, have collaborated to develop mobile technologies to enhance the livelihoods of small-scale seaweed producers in Southeast Asia.

The collaboration between Oceanfarmr and Coast 4C will primarily focus on developing technologies that expedite the improvement of farm operations performance, finance, and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) monetisation for seaweed farmers. In the initial phase of this collaboration, efforts will be made to capture and verify seaweed conditions through the development of scoring methodologies based on photos and manager reviews. This will enable future implementation of AI scoring, facilitating more efficient and rapid data collection for Coast 4C's R&D program on seaweed strains and methods.

Oceanfarmr offers a comprehensive ocean farm operations management system, featuring smartphone and tablet apps along with web-based dashboards that provide visibility across ocean farms. The company has successfully developed automated farm management apps and farm finance solutions for Shellfish farming, which are already operational in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

As part of the collaboration, Oceanfarmr will undertake the scoping and development of a scoring methodology to encode seaweed conditions within the app. This methodology will serve as the foundation for an AI algorithm to be incorporated into

the Oceanfarmr app in subsequent phases. Additionally, Oceanfarmr will explore, develop, test, and maintain customization and configuration options to enable the methodology and assess sensor data for quantity and quality analysis.

Coast 4C is dedicated to building the world's largest supply chain of regenerative seaweed, with a strong focus on benefiting Communities, Commerce, Conservation, and Climate. With 500 registered farms supplying dried Eucheumatoid seaweed for the \$1 billion Carrageenan market, Coast 4C not only provides marketing support but also offers farm start-up packages, disaster relief packages, and crucial research and development support on seaweed strains and production methods. Additionally, Coast 4C manages a network of 17 nurseries and actively promotes positive environmental impact through marine spatial planning and marine protected areas.

Coast 4C will manage and maintain nurseries and field sites, provide valuable input to develop seaweed condition scoring, and source seedstock of known haplotypes along with farming equipment/methods. The enterprise will also provide training for nursery managers, oversee implementation, report findings from field tests, and conduct basic carrageenan analysis and data analysis.

At the completion of each phase, both Coast 4C and Oceanfarmr will review the requirements for a farmer app aimed at enhancing farm operations performance, farm finance, and ESG monetization. The parties will also evaluate the outcomes achieved in the previous phase and outline the subsequent steps between the parties, potentially including the establishment of a joint venture.