Seaweed economics – ecosystem services and financial viability

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Seaweed is a resource with potential to provide a substitute to fossil-based material and higher-impact food production. Additionally, it sequesters nitrogen and phosphorus, thus contributing to eutrophication mitigation and potentially serving as a circular economy tool for P recovery. The research here presented focuses on economic aspects around seaweed production – can it be a profitable business in Europe or should we view this activity as an ‘environmental’ project in need of subsidies in order to be economically viable? By studying the costs of production and potential revenue, along with ecosystem service values associated with N and P sequestration, an overall economic balance sheet can be provided, in which market- and non-market values are compared.