

SEAWEED SESSION

Highlighting the Potential Contribution of Seaweed to Blue Economy and Agri-food Systems

26 June 2025 (14:00 – 16:00) VENUE: Kibale Hall

Session Chair: Dr. Bernice Mclean (AUDA-NEPAD): Co-Chair: TBA

Seaweeds are highly productive resources and hold vast potential for contributing to development aspirations in Africa and globally, and particularly to the development of Africa's Blue Economy. Globally, seaweed is one of the fastest growing food production sectors in the world today. Seaweed has the potential to improve livelihoods, food security, preserve marine biodiversity, and empower value chain actors including some of the most vulnerable sectors of the population. Seaweeds also play a significant role in climate change adaptation and biodiversity. In East Africa, the majority of people working in the seaweed sector are women. Within the framework of Africa's Blue Economy, the seaweed sector has been identified as a priority for development by the AUDA-NEPAD and some of its partners who include SADC, World Bank, FAO, and others. While the seaweed sector in Africa is considered nascent in many respects, it offers significant opportunities for livelihood diversification and is one to watch for blue economy expansion in Africa.

The overall goal of this session is to serve as a platform to share information, lessons and best practices on the status and development of seaweed aquaculture in Africa and elsewhere. The session will also showcase innovative approaches, proposed models to attract finance and investment in the industry and receive feedback from audience on how to ensure that the sector develops in a coordinated way, based on evidence-based decision-making.

AGENDA

AGENDA	PRESENTER	TIME
Setting the Scene: Session Background & Objectives	Bernice Mclean (AUDA-NEPAD)	
Status of Seaweed aquaculture value chains in Africa	Bernice Mclean (AUDA-NEPAD)	
Global Seaweed landscape and developments	Harrison Charo Karisa (World Bank)	
Seaweed Value Chain Development for SADC & ProfishBlue Project	Alexander Kefi (SADC)	
Tanzania's seaweed developments	Nazael Madalla	
Namibia and South Africa's Kelp Projects	TBA	
Madagascar's seaweed value chain journey	Chantal Koko	
Somalia's plans for developing a seaweed industry	Raisa Mohamed	
KENYA - KMFRI Research work on seaweed	KMFRI TBA	
New developments at the Healthy Seaweed Café (Tanzania) – success in Entrepreneurship in the seaweed sector	Fatuma Mang'ena (Healthy Seaweed Café)	
Aquatic Blue Foods Coalition Member aspirations on seaweed	TBA??	
Gender considerations	Jennifer Gee, (FAO Recorded?)	
Discussion: perspectives towards a developing an African community of practice to Strengthen Africa's Seaweed Value Chains	Moderator: Bernice Mclean	

Way forward and closing remarks	Nazael Madalla	
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All are welcome. Please send your expressions of interest to attend the session to bernicem@auda-nepad.org with copy africanchapter@was.org
***“TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY OF PRACTISE FOR SEAWEED
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA”***