

Seaweed farming: a possibility for Tanzania's coastal Ujamaa villages

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Abstract

Tanzania is fortunate in having a relatively long shoreline and many offshore islands which support appreciable quantities of seaweeds. One of the most notable seaweeds is the genus *Eucheuma* which has been harvested from the shores of Zanzibar, Pemba and Mafia Islands for over two decades. About 500 to 800 tons of dry *Eucheuma* are exported from Tanzania to Western Europe annually. The cells of this seaweed contain the industrial phycocolloid carrageenan, which has a wide range of applications in food, pharmaceutical and textile industries. It is likely that *Eucheuma* farming is a possible economic activity in Tanzania. In order to teach the farming techniques efficiently, it would seem desirable to establish the farms in some selected Ujamaa villages along the coast where the people to be recruited can be selected from amongst those already experienced with marine life, such as fishermen or shell-collectors.

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