

Welcome to
King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)

AGRICULTURAL & FOOD PROCESSING ROADSHOW

February 06, 07 2025





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Mark Dimech PhD - Marine Director



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Fisheries Management Projects

Mark Dimech, Ph.D.
Marine Director



Exploration of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and deep waters for the exploitation of new fisheries resources including Fish and Shrimp.

- ✓ One Year Research Cruise
- ✓ Using RV Taqnia
- ✓ Technical Proposal





Potential opportunities for the production of fishmeal in KSA.





Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Framework for Impacted Coral Reefs



Phase I – Initiation and Planning

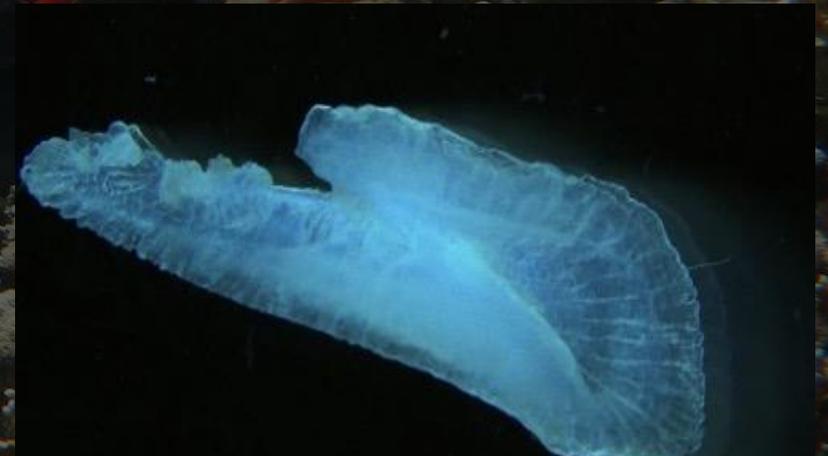
Phase II – Identify and Prioritise Issues



Phase III - Develop Management System

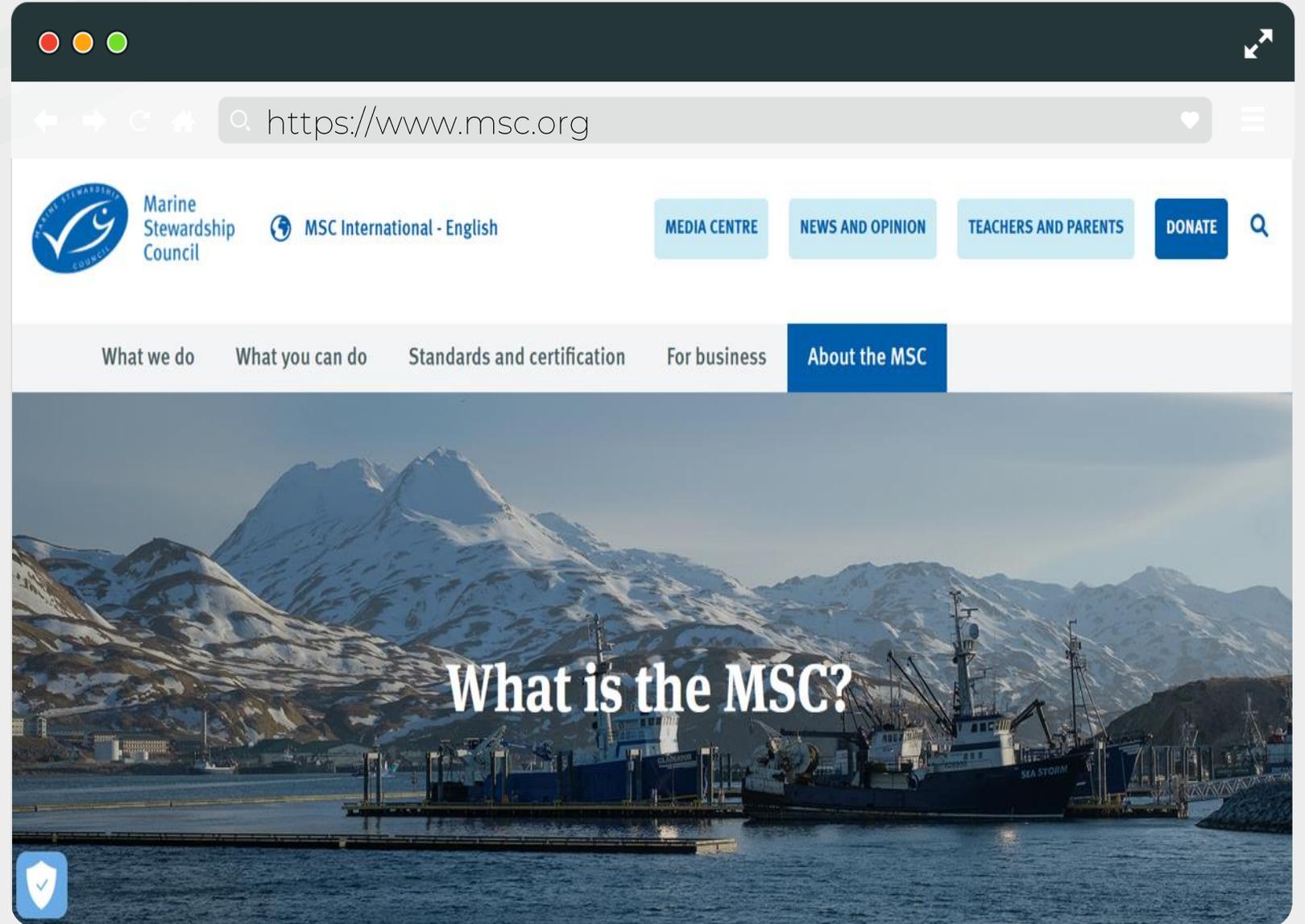


Phase IV – Implementation and Monitoring





Achieving Fisheries Sustainability through certification





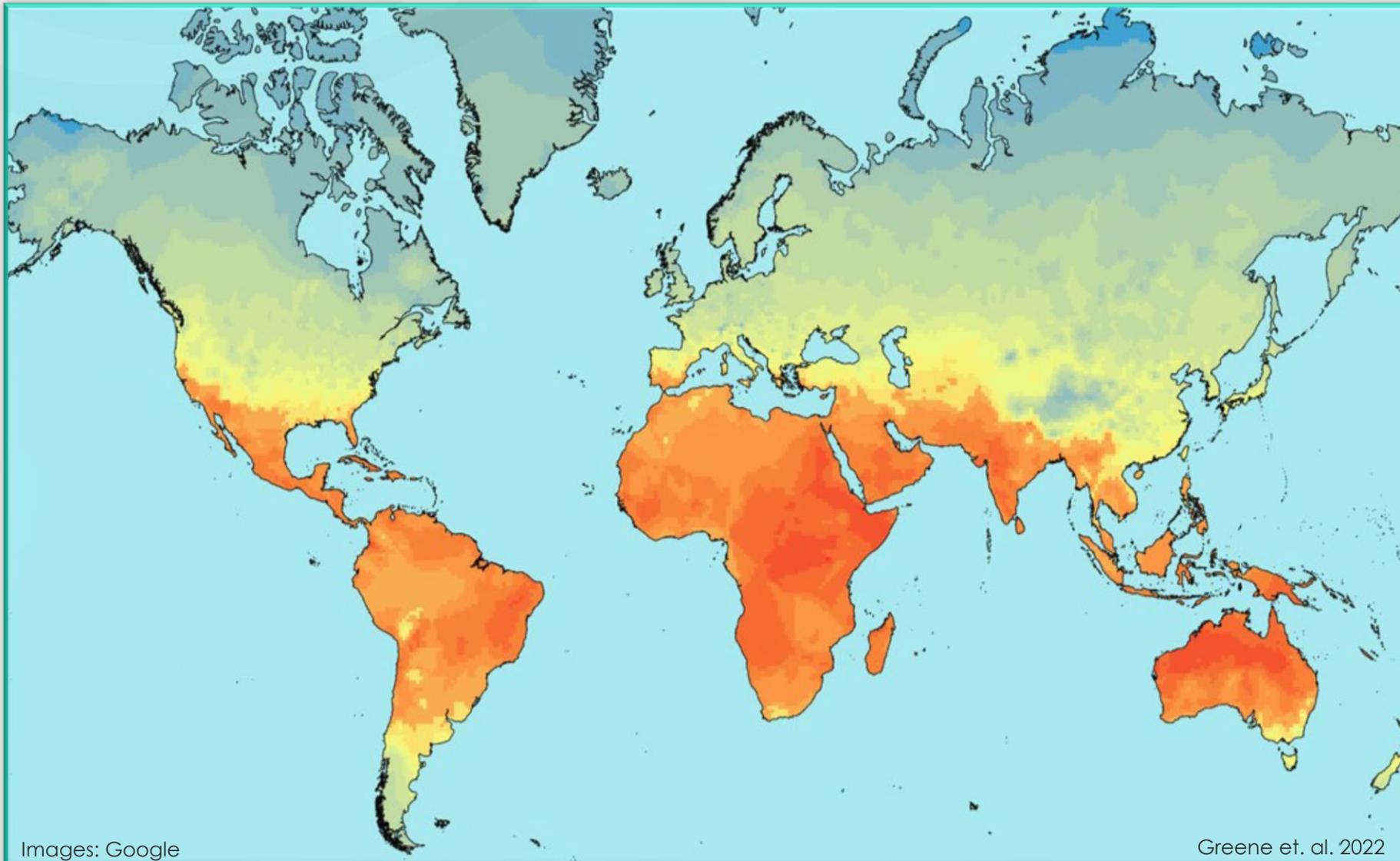
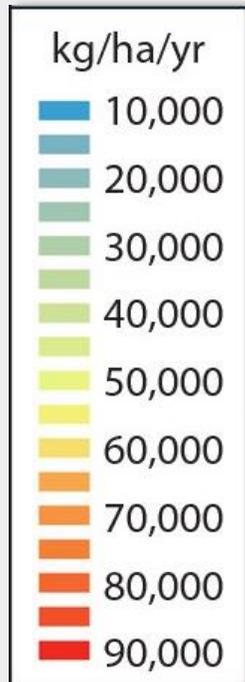
Saudi Arabia as the new worldwide hot spot for **large-scale microalgae cultivation**

Claudio Fuentes Grünewald, Gabriel Romero-Villegas, Ricardo Gonzalez-Portela, Rahul V. Kapoore, Zain Alammari, Raghdah Malibari, Abdulaziz Aljahdali, Rana Banjar, Emna Mhedhbi, Akram Filimban, Mohamad Padri, Alawi Jifri, Abdullah Alattas, Cristina Barrao, Rawan Nahas, Liliana Alfaro, Majid Bougis, Sama Mohamad, Raghad Alahmadi, Diedrich Vahrenkamp, Yousef Al Hafedh, Ali Al Shaikhi.

Claudio Fuentes Grunewald, Ph.D.
Algae Program Director



Background: Annual Biomass Production



Images: Google

Greene et. al. 2022



Background: Annual Biomass Production





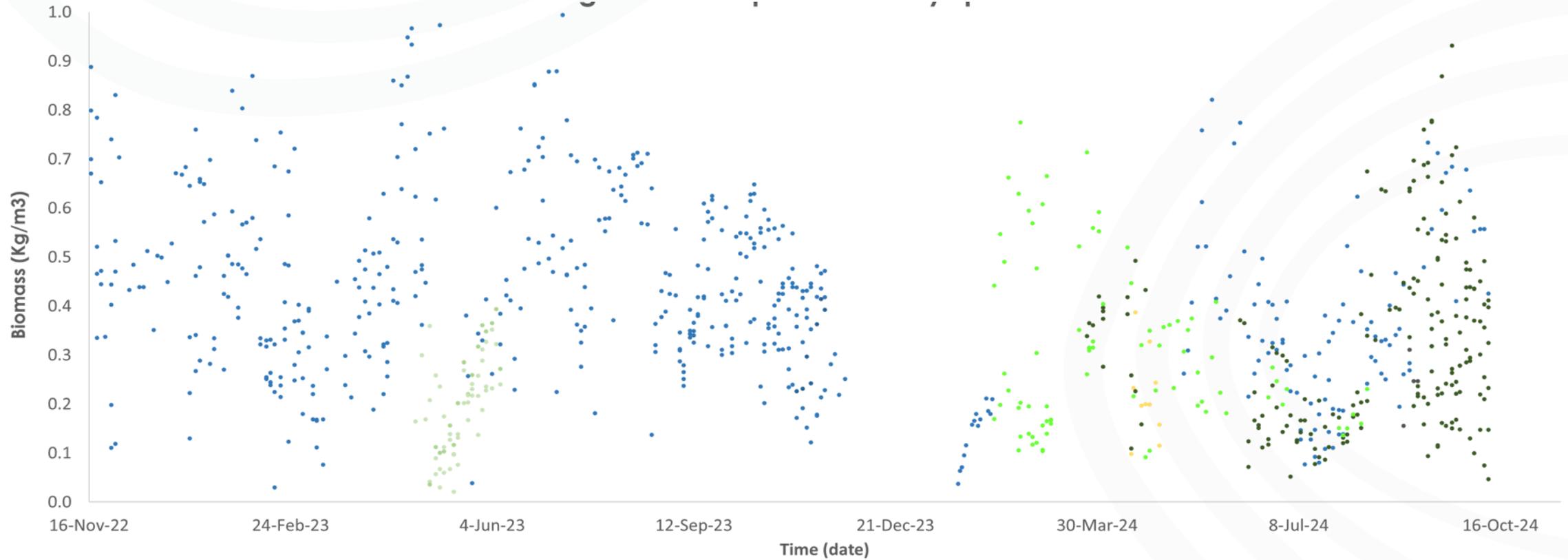
KAUST-MEWA Industrial/Commercial Size Microalgae Plant

Large-Scale Microalgae Cultivation

innovation.kaust.edu.sa



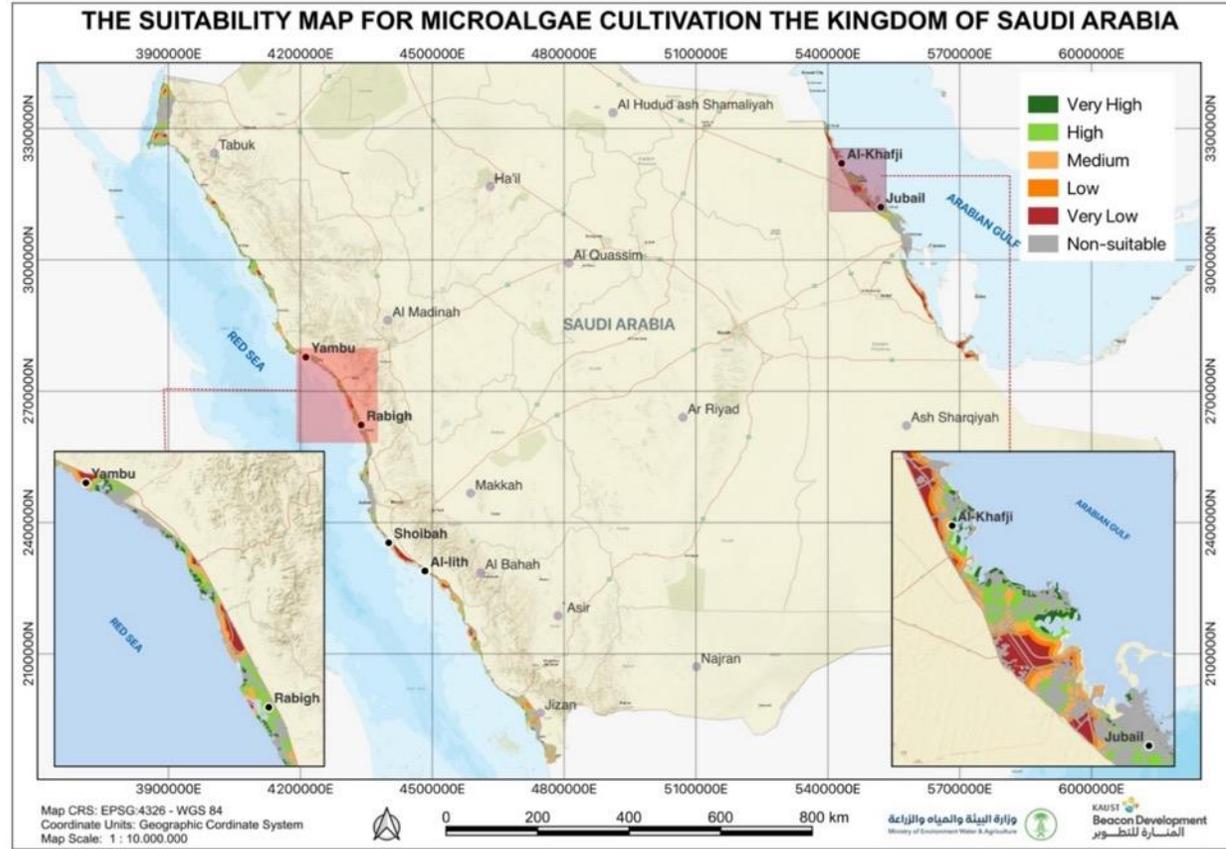
Results: Algal Biomass Production By Species



• *Arthrospira* • *Monoraphidium* • *Leptolyngbya* • *Tetradesmus* • *Chlorella*

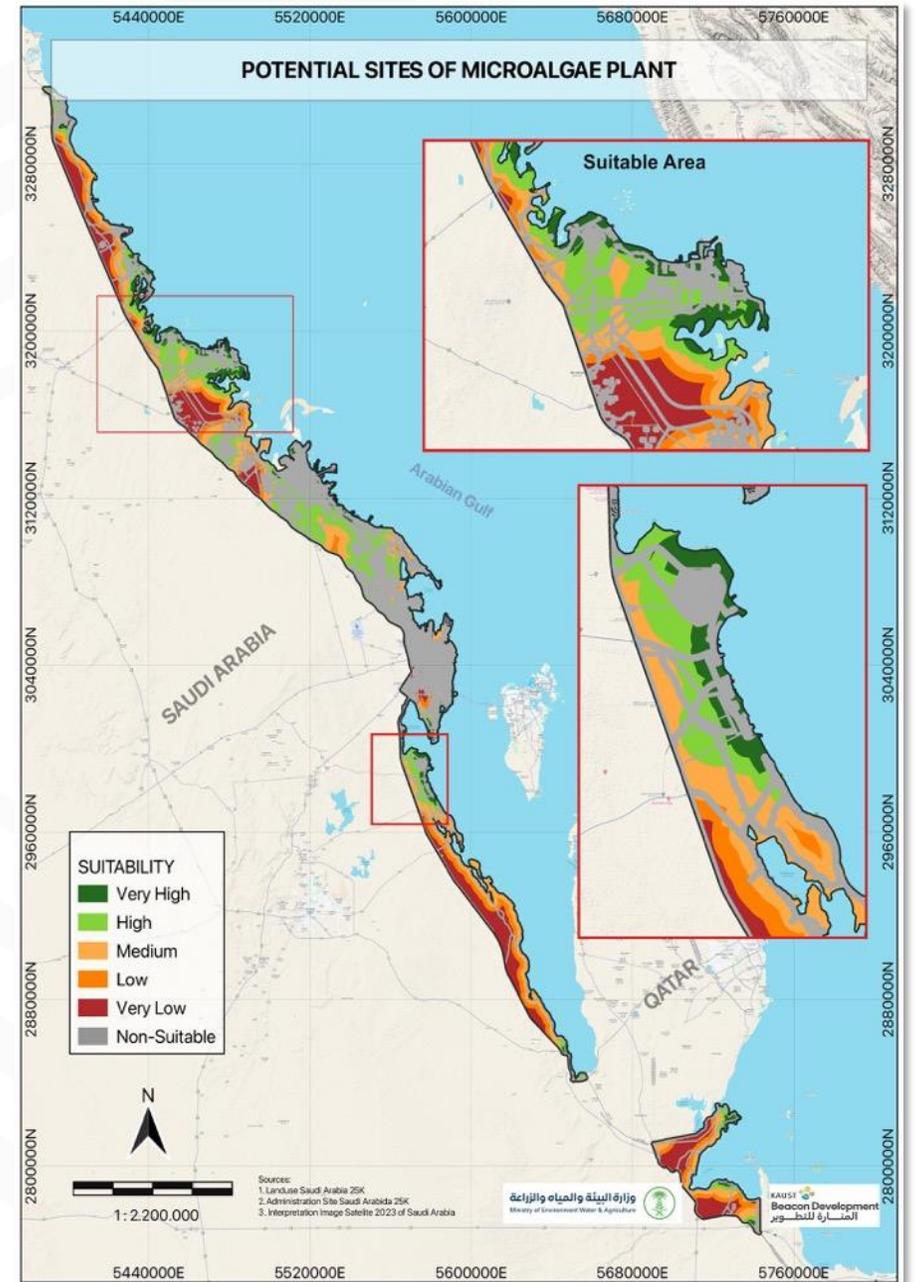


Conservative	PROJECTED NUMBERS FOR SAUDI ARABIA	Realistic
3254	Total Plant Volume (m3)	3254
2534	Total Production units only (m3)	2534
25%	% Harvest	25%
0.4	Production at harvest point (Kg/m3)	0.5
814	Volume harvested daily basis (m3)	814
325	Dry biomass harvested daily basis (Kg)	407
7.8	Biomass produced in a monthly basis (tons)	9.8
86	Yearly microalgae biomass production (tons)	107
42,200	Phase II total plant area (m2)	42,200
12,724	Phase II plant production area (m2)	12,724
68	Yearly microalgae biomass production per hectare (tons)	84
27	Yearly protein production per hectare (tons)	34



Categories	Suitability index	Area (km ²)	Total (km ²)
Non-Suitable	Non-Suitable	10,763	10,763
	Very low	2,088	
	Low	1,264	
Suitable	Medium	4,322	14,008
	High	4,728	
	Very High	1,606	

Large-Scale Microalgae Cultivation





Why To Invest In **Saudi Arabia** For Large Scale Microalgae Cultivation?

- ✓ A country that require algae biotechnology to produce raw material for animal feed
- ✓ **The largest country in the Middle East, with vast coastline and empty flat land**
- ✓ Over 1,000,000 hectares suitable for the deployment of microalgae biotechnology near the coast
- ✓ **One of the highest annual average solar radiation (> 6 kWh/m²/d); over 325 days of clear sky**
- ✓ Cheap energy (Saudi Arabia: 4 cents €; China: 8 cents €; USA: 15 €; Europe: 18 cents € per kWh)
- ✓ **Government incentives to attract investors**
- ✓ Saudi Food Drugs Authority (SFDA) authorize the use of “Algae”, “Algae meal” & “Algal oil” as plant protein to be included in animal feed (SFDA feed 465E)

COME TO GROW ALGAE IN SAUDI ARABIA



Aquaculture Development Program In The Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia

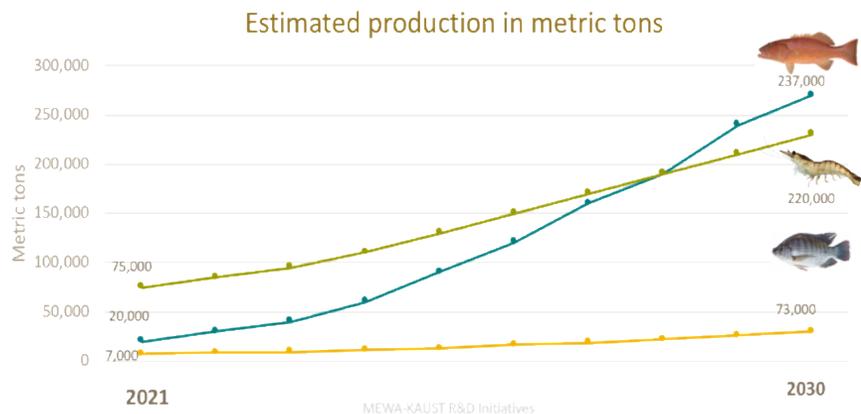
MEWA-KAUST R&D Initiatives

Reda Azam, Ph.D.
Aquaculture Development Program



Saudi Arabia Production Targets For 2030

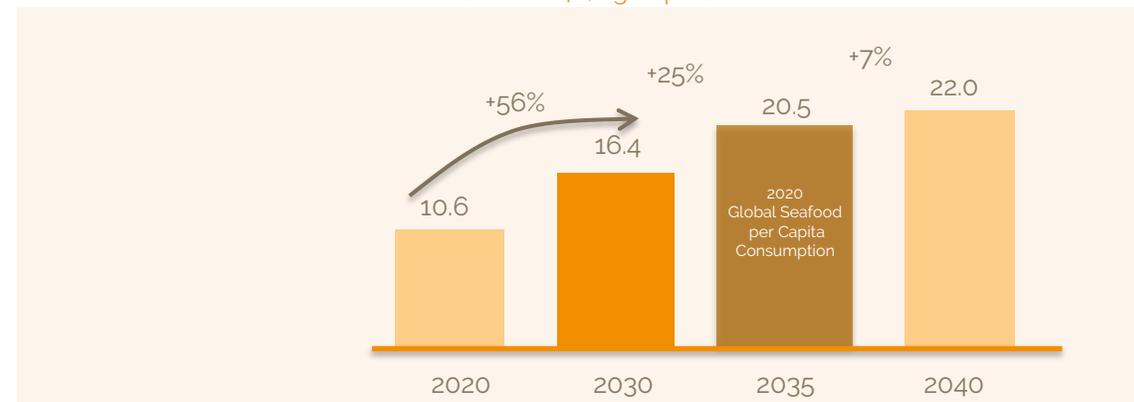
- ✓ The current production is almost 150 MTn
- ✓ The vision 2030 is to achieve 530 MTn



National Aquaculture Development Strategic Plan

KSA seafood consumption has the potential to reach around ~ 900k MT by 2040

KSA Seafood consumption
(2020-2040, Kg/Capita)



Total KSA Seafood Consumption (MT '000)	354	648	847	911
Estimated KSA Population (Millions)	33.4	39.5	41.3	42.7



MEWA-KAUST Strategic Partnership

To support MEWA in achieving its strategic objectives and targets under the Vision 2030 on Environment, Water and Agriculture. MEWA and KAUST signed the agreement on 2016.



Aquaculture Development Program (ADP)

Inaugural project under the MEWA-KAUST Strategic Partnership to support the development of marine aquaculture in the Kingdom. Contract was also signed on 09 November 2016.



(ADP): Aquaculture Development Program



To strategically support the National Program for Developing the Fisheries Sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia towards the goal of 530,000 tons aquaculture production targeted by 2030 vision.



Environment



Nutrition

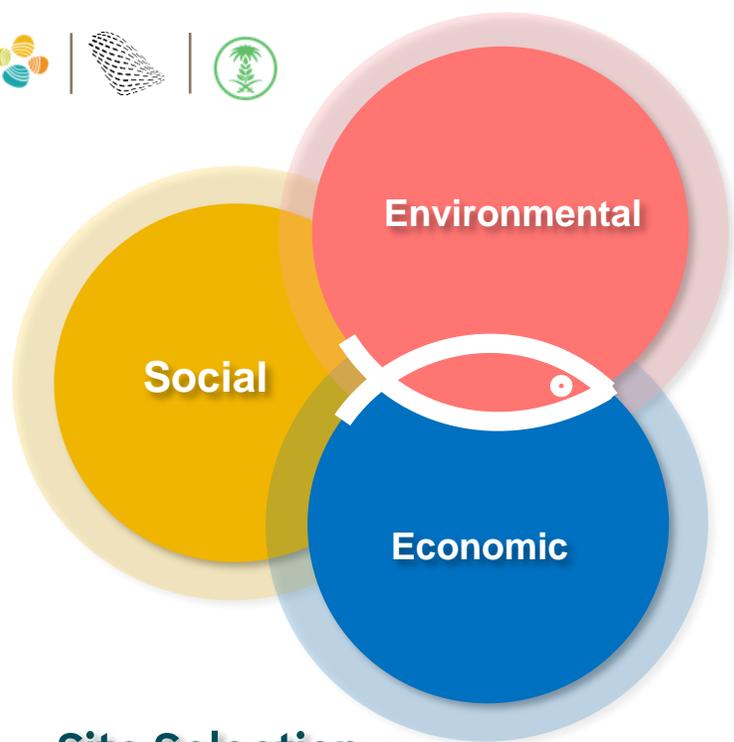


Hatchery

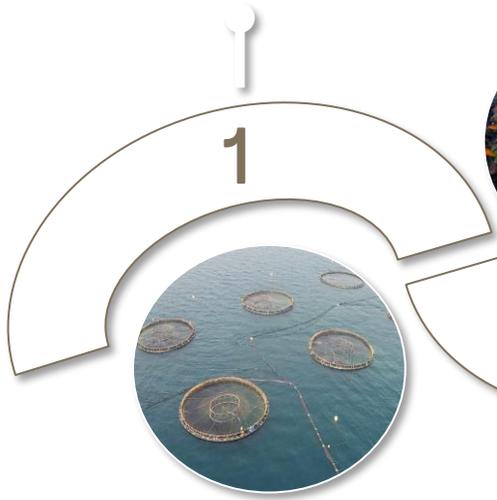


Breeding





Site Selection

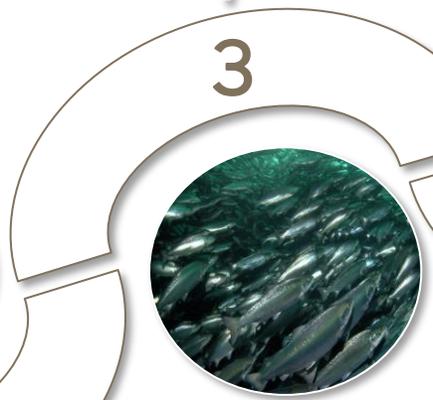


1



2

Ecological Assessment



3

Ecological & Production Capacity



4

SEA / ESIA of Farm Activities



5

Ecological Criteria & Monitoring

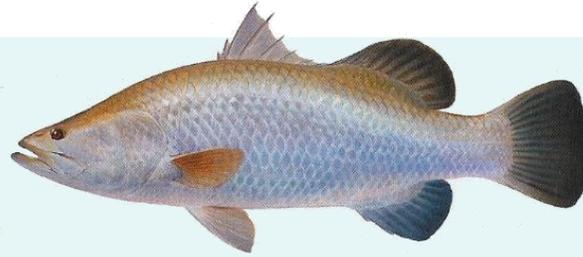


6

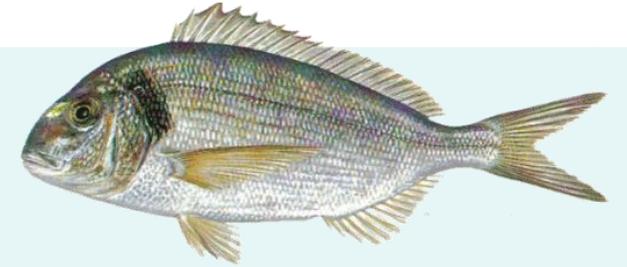
Legislation & Capacity Building

1

Improve feed conversion (FCR) of key existing species



Asian seabass *Lates calcarifer*



Mediterranean seabream *Sparus aurata*



Sparidentex hasta



Trachinotus blochii



Epinephelus Spp.



Lutjanus argentimaculatus



Seriola dumerili

2

Develop diets for new species

3

Adapt nutritional technology for local environments as required





MEWA-KAUST Achievements: FCR & ECR

More than 30+ species-specific feed formulation



Gilthead Seabream

FCR	1.7
FCR Improvement	10%
ECR Improvement	26%



Sobaity Seabream

FCR	1.7
FCR Improvement	12%
ECR Improvement	17%



Asian Seabass

FCR	1.4
FCR Improvement	15%
ECR Improvement	35%



Snubnose Pompano

FCR	1.6
FCR Improvement	13%
ECR Improvement	14%



Hatchery Technology Development



✓ Developed Hatchery Technology



Gilthead Seabream



Sobaity Seabream



Snubnose Pompano



Grouper



Mangrove Red Snapper

Epinephelus Spp.



Investment Opportunities: Technology Available for Species of Interest

Aquafeed



- **530,000** Seafood tons will require **926,000** tons of aquafeed.
- **New Aquafeed Raw materials:** Algae, Insect meal, SCPs (bacteria)..etc.

Hatchery



- **260,000** tons of marine fish, requires **840 million** fish juveniles.
- **250,000** tons of shrimp requires **21 billion** of shrimp PL's.
- 70,000 tons of freshwater fish requires **300 million** fish juveniles.

Offshore Cages & Inland Farms



- Sites selected with special investment packages
- Species suitable Environmental assessment package Species-Specific Feed with high efficiency (FCR&ECR)
- Aquaponics

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

