

BEST / BE2020_2.0
BEST – Bioenergy and Sustainable Technologies GmbH

Programme: COMET – Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies

Programme line: COMET-Centre (K1)

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ALGAE – «QUALITY FROM AUSTRIA»

LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION OF ALGAE FOR USE AS HEALTHY FOOD INGREDIENTS. THIS IS THE AIM OF THE ALGAE4FOOD PROJECT LED BY BEST – BIOENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES GMBH.

Health aspects are becoming increasingly important quality criteria in the food sector, in addition to a growing focus on local and organic production. Algae still play a subordinate role as a raw material in this respect, although they are rich in essential amino acids, trace elements and antioxidants.

High quality and traceable production are top priorities for consumers when it comes to their food. Algae are currently produced primarily in South-East Asia and often do not meet Austrian and European quality criteria. Moreover, the drying process often gives algae a strong taste or smell.

The Algae4Food project aims to provide Austria with algal material, which is produced locally and sustainably and meets the highest quality standards. Methods such as pulsed electric fields (PEF), isostatic high-pressure processing (HPP) and gentle drying processes are used for conservation. The raw material obtained with these innovative processes will then be tested for the production of different foods.

SUCCESS STORY



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Impact and effects

The project covers the entire algae value chain, from the provision of the algal raw material to processing

and product manufacturing through to packaging, marketing and sales.

The process is integrated into a biogas plant in order to enable local and cost-effective algae production. The heat and power generated by the biogas process is provided for cultivating the algae, thus enabling economically viable production in Austria, even under non-optimal climatic conditions. The project team is also developing a concept for using CO₂ from the biogas as a resource in algae cultivation.

The project is funded by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) under the 12th call of the COIN (Cooperation & Innovation) Network funding line. The funding programme is managed by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).

Project coordination (Story)

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- Felzl GmbH
- JuiceFactory – JuiceBars GmbH
- Urbanhealthconcept
- NaKu e. U.
- CleverClover
- Zotter Schokolade GmbH
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)
- University of Applied Sciences Wiener Neustadt

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