## The Effect of Seaweed Aquaculture Cooperatives on Sustainable Livelihoods in Malaysia

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### Have you ever notice?



Colgate Fluoride Toothpaste NET WT 2.8 OZ (79 g)	Image: SparkLing         SparkLing         SparkLing         with Baking Soda & Peroxide         WHITENS & PROTECTS TEETH FROM STAINS
Straining       Mint Zing         Active Ingredient       Purpose         Sodium monofluorophosphate 0.76% (0.14% w/v fluoride ion)       Anticavity         USO       helps protect against cavities         Warnings       Keep out of reach of children under 6 years of age.         If more than used for brushing is accidentally swallowed, get medical help or contact a Polson Control Center right away.         Directions         • Adults and children 2 years of age and older: Brush teeth thoroughly, preferably after each meal or at least twice a day, or as directed by a dentist or physician.         • Children 2 to 6 years: Use only a pea sized amount and supervise child's brushing and rinsing (to minimize swallowing).         • Children under 2 years: Ask a dentist or physician.	Inactive Ingredients given hydrated slica, water, sodium bicarbonate, PEG-12, sodium lauryl sulfate, flavor, sodium hydroxide, cellulose gun, carrageenan, sodium saccharin, calcium peroxide, titanium dioxide, FD&C green no. 3 Questions? 1-800-468-6502 www.colgate.com Dist. by: Colgate-PALMOLIVE COMPANY New York, NY 10022

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Turkey, Chicken, Chicken Broth, Brown Rice, Potato, Carrot, Herring, Natura Flavor, Whole Eqg. Guar Gum, Apple, Alfalfa Sprouts, Cottage Cheese. Herring Oil Carrageenan, L-ascorbyl-2-polyphosphate (Source of Vitamin C), Minerals (Iron Amino Acid Chelate, Zinc Amino Acid Chelate, Cobalt Amino Acid Chelate, Copper Amino Acid Chelate, Manganese Amino Acid Chelate, Selenium Yeast, Potassium Iodide), Potassium Chloride, Vitamins Vitamin E, A, B12, D3 Supplements, Thiamine Mononitrate, Biotin, Ribofavin Supplement), Sunflower Oil, Pumpkin, Sodium Phosphate, Inulin, Salt, Choline Chloride, Beta Carotene

nteed Analysis:

Calorie Cont 9.0% (Meta) 8.5% 1 5%

### Introduction

• First empirical study on the effectiveness of a seaweed aquaculture cooperative initiative – the 'Seaweed Cluster Project' (SCP), focusing on the sustainability of seaweed commercialisation and livelihood impacts

### Carrageenan seaweed value chain



# Global aquaculture production highlighting regional context for case-study





Percentage of global aquaculture production 2010-2012

0.1	0.3	1	3	10	30	100

Asia: 88.7%; Americas: 4.5%; Europe: 4.3%; Africa: 2.2%; Oceania: 0.3%

# Case-study Rationale for Country

- Total people involved with aquaculture in the world: 19.3 million or 32% of 59.6 million fishers in 2016
  - 80% of aquaculturists in the world are considered small scale (FAO, 2018)
- Seaweed farming in Malaysia is a small scale aquaculture (SSA) sector (Nor et al., 2016; Sade et al., 2006)
- SSA seaweed farming issues in Malaysia (in relation to Sustainable Development Goals) – poverty, environmental sustainability, low productivity & quality



# Case-study Rationale for the Seaweed Cluster Project (SCP)



#### SCP – National Agrofood Policy (2011 – 2020)

- Ensure food security and safety
- Increase competitiveness and sustainability
- Increase the income level

#### **Study sites**

- Semporna, Sabah: major producing area (80%)
- SCP: Two sites
  - Lok Butun & Gelam-gelam
- Non-SCP: Five sites
  - Palang-palang, Sebangkat, Patuit, Sangaban, Melanta Kobal



#### Research aim

To evaluate the effectiveness of the SCP in delivering sustainable development and improving people's livelihoods by alleviating poverty, increasing farming efficiency and productivity, and improving seaweed quality and environmental conditions.





### Methods



### Main results - Policy cycle framework (PCF)



Fischer and Miller (2006)

- PCF Seaweed Intervention Programmes (SIP)
- Poor analysis and inclusiveness
- Committee report spending and official event only
- Lack of coordination and integration
- Poor monitoring and evaluation
- Poor data and information

### Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF)



DFID (2001)

#### Main results - SCP SLF



# Main results – Ranking of innovation introduced in terms of participants' appraisal

1: Eco-Friendly Long line (EFL)



4: Boats 5: Seedlings table 6: Cement anchoring system



2: Certification scheme 3: Drying platform



Innovations	Rating	
Polyfloat EFL	1 <sup>st</sup>	
Detachable EFL	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Certification scheme	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Boats	4 <sup>th</sup>	
Cement anchoring system	5 <sup>th</sup>	
Drying platform	6 <sup>th</sup>	
Tie-tie polyethylene EFL	7 <sup>th</sup>	
Seedling table	8 <sup>th</sup>	1:

### Overall results based on research questions

What are the main barriers to maximising the potential growth of the seaweed industry in Malaysia?

A. Governance	<ol> <li>Institutional capability</li> <li>Capacity building</li> <li>Maritime security</li> <li>Migrant farmers</li> <li>Sea tenure</li> </ol>
B. Economics	<ol> <li>6) Price volatility</li> <li>7) Seaweed quality</li> <li>8) Intermediaries</li> </ol>
C. Environmental and technological	9) Technology
D. Sociocultural	<ul><li>10) Indigenes' lack of interest</li><li>11) Social capital</li><li>12) Local leadership</li><li>13) Gender</li></ul>

# How does the SCP set out to overcome these barriers, and what is the likelihood of success?

Increase farmers' income above poverty level (SDG1)	<ul> <li>87.5% of SCP farmers earned less than US\$10 per day per farmer.</li> <li>56.7% of non-SCP farmers earned more than US\$10 per day per farmer.</li> <li>Jobs multiplicity increased daily income to more than US\$10 per SCP farmer (55%).</li> </ul>
Improve farming efficiency and productivity (SDG12)	<ul> <li>90% of SCP farmers produced less than 1 mt per ha per year.</li> <li>96.2% of non-SCP farmers produced more than 1 mt per ha per year.</li> <li>Absence of Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) in developing farming technology.</li> </ul>
Increase competitiveness and safety [good seaweed quality] (SDG12)	<ul> <li>Unable to replace the intermediaries' role in providing services.</li> <li>Weak market mechanisms.</li> </ul>
Environmental sustainability (SDG14)	<ul> <li>Seasonality, diseases and predation issues.</li> <li>Seaweed Aquaculture Industry Zone (SAIZ) was poorly implemented in the marine spatial planning process.</li> </ul>

### Main Conclusions

This study determined that the establishment of seaweed aquaculture cooperatives – SCP – could meet their central objectives to some extent; however, the critical features of effective governance, market mechanisms, sustainable marine development, acceptable technology, and sustainable livelihoods approaches were often poor or lacking.

### Recommendations

- Increase the participation of indigenous people in the SCP;
- Confer legal status upon the existing migrant farmers;
- •Need to strengthen seaweed aquaculture cooperative organisations;
- Provide entrepreneurship skills to enhance profits; and,
- Promote stakeholder engagement to influence decisionmaking.

### References

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#### Achievements



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#### MAST PGR Conference 2016

The 2016 Newcastle University MAST PGR Conference provided a forum for the presentation, discussion and dissemination of the work of our postgraduate research students. It provided an environment for students to present their research, answer questions and receive feedback from other students and scholars from a broad range of fields in the study of Marine Science and Technology at Newcastle University.

To reflect the diverse range of topics that our students research, there is no specific conference theme. Instead, the conference will present a range of papers within the overarching field of Marine Science and Technology. Presentations will either be in the form of a specific paper, research findings from the thesis, discussing of a thesis chapter, or an introduction to a broad theoretical framework and methodology.

Prizes where awarded to students from each stage of study for Best Presentation, as well as a Best Published Paper prize (accepted for a journal paper or international conference) being awarded to one student from each of Marine Science and Marine Technology.

#### Postgraduate Conference 2016 prize winners are:

#### Marine Technology:

Best Stage 1 Presentation– Arlene Arias Coronado Best Stage 2 Presentation – Alessandro Carchen Best Stage 3 Presentation– Sudheesh Ramadasan Honorary Mention – Federico Prini Best Published Paper Prize – Weichao Shi

#### Marine Science:

Best Stage 1 Presentation – Emily Paige O'Hara Best Stage 2 Presentation – Andrew Temple Best Stage 3 Presentation – Paula Lightfoot Honorary Mention 1 – Georgina Robinson Honorary Mention 2 - Adibi Rahiman Bin Md Nor Honorary Mention 3 – Bita Sabbaghzadeh Best Published Paper Prize – Georgina Robinson

# Achievements (cont'd)

- British Phycological Society Student Bursary Award (2017)
- The Paul C. Silva Student Grants Award (2017)
- One ISI & Scorpus Index (2016) + one coming soon (2019)
- Four international oral presentation (2017 2019)
- Two posters presentation (2016)
- Reviewer for Journal of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Malaya (2018)

# PhD @campus life









# PhD @academic life









# PhD @social life









![](_page_24_Picture_5.jpeg)

# PhD @family life

![](_page_25_Picture_1.jpeg)

# Our last day in Ncl 😣

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_26_Picture_4.jpeg)

# Post PhD life

- Senior Lecturer @the International Institute of Public Policy & Management, UM
- Early Career Researchers (ECR) for the Global Seaweed Star research grant amounted to £6 mil from 2019 until 2021
- Ncl alumni gathering

![](_page_27_Picture_4.jpeg)

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# Acknowledgements

Sponsors:

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**GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA** 

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#### Thank you for listening

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## Any questions?