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CULTIVATION AND PROCESSING OF SEAWEEDS

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Seaweeds and seagrasses growths are characteristic of the coastal shallow water areas. In moderate latitudes they form veritable underwater meadows and forests composed primarily of brown *Laminaria* (Laminariales) and (Fucales) seaweeds and in tropical and subtropical zones - of sea grasses, red and sargass seaweeds. The world ocean numbers over 8 thousand species of macrophytes (seaweeds). However the major part of biomass is provided by a few genus and species. The largest amount of biomass is produced by *Laminaria*. The following genera of seaweeds are the most widespread ones - among the brown seaweeds: *Laminaria*, *Marcocystis*, *Nereocystis*, *Undaria*, *Alaria*, *Lessonia*, *Durvillea*, *Fucus*, *Ascophyllum*, *Sargassum*; among the red weeds: *Gracilaria*, *Gelidium*, *Eucheuma*, *Hypnea*, *Chondrus*, *Gigartina*, *Porphyra*, *Pterocladia*, *Furcellaria*, *Phyllophora*, *Ahnfeltia*; among the green weeds: *Ulva*, *Enteromorpha*, *Gaultheria* and some others.

Marine vegetation of moderate latitudes is most abundant.

The seaweeds reserves in various areas have been assessed with a varying degree of comprehension and reliability. The overall reserves of seas and oceans benthic seaweeds might be assessed in very approximate terms as amounting to 150 mln t of fresh mass (Blinova, 1985). A potential world-wide seaweeds yield amounts to 18 mln t of fresh mass (Göran, 1975)

Most mariculture experts believe that the seaweeds farming constitutes a most perspective object of artificial cultivation. Many weeds species have a high growth-rate, they do not require great capital investments for their cultivation, a feed that is in short

supply or expensive, they serve as a raw stock for obtaining irreplaceable substances (agar, carrageenans, alginates, mannitol) and make good foodstuffs and fodder.

The seaweed mariculture has a number of advantages over their harvesting in natural conditions. Weeds may be cultivated in profit-lucrative areas convenient for exploitation. The most widespread cultivation method using artificial substrates submerged in water offers a substantially simpler way of harvesting. The plantation crop yield is higher than that of the natural one. Genetics and selection help create forms (grades) with a higher crop yield. It appears possible to cultivate large quantities of seaweeds even beyond the area of their natural habitat.

Out of several thousand species of benthic seaweeds as few as a little over 100 are harvested and 20-25 species are currently cultivated. The present-day world yield of commercial seaweeds amounts to 3,5 mln t (Yearbook of fishery statistics, 1984), 70% or around 2-2,2 mln t of that amount are cultivated.

The seaweeds are rich in microelements, iodine, A, B, C- groups vitamins, carbohydrates, proteins; they contain antibacterial substances capable of stepping up anticoagulative properties of blood. Seaweeds contain saccharoses that do not induce diabetes, an increased iodine content prevents goitre from developing.

Various species of red seaweeds provide valuable, sometimes irreplaceable gel-forming substances: agar, agaroid, carrageenan. They are widely-used primarily in medicine, pharmacology, phytopathology, foodstuffs industry, perfumery and many other sectors.

The brown seaweeds provide alginates and mannitols. Alginates

employed as a binding, activating stabilizing and emulgating substance in foodstuffs, textile and other industries. They are capable of binding strontium 90 which is important for being able to extract this element out of an organism affected by it. Mannitol is increasingly used for blood transfusions.

Since times immemorial seaweeds have been consumed as food particularly by the peoples of South-East Asia. Nowadays other peoples increasingly follow suit.

Seaweeds and their processing wastes are used for producing granules employed as an integral part (1-10%) of artificial feeds. Seaweeds enrich artificial feeds primarily with microelements and vitamins. Such artificial feeds step up general condition of the stock and increase the commercial output.

Provided seaweeds are used as fertilizers the structure of soil regenerates and the growth-stimulating microelements and substances are brought into it.

The cultivation of seaweeds dates back several hundred years but its industrial cultivation began in the 50-60s of this century primarily in Japan, China, North and South Korea, Philippines, Taiwan and some other countries. In 1980 the volume of cultivated weeds amounted to: in China-1441 thousand tons, in Taiwan-11 thousand tons, Japan - 426 thousand tons, in South Korea - 196 thousand tons, in Philippines - 133 thousand tons; (Vard, 1983). In 1980 the world output of agar amounted to 7 thousand tons, that of carrageenan - 10 thousand tons, alginates - 22 thousand tons (Christeller, Furneaux Gordon et al., 1983). The world demand for seaweeds, their products and prices are increasing every year. In 1982 the US seaweed phycocoloids prices

amounted to: agar (powder) and alginic acid - 30 US dollars a kilo, carrageenan (commercial) - 40 US dollars a kilo, k-, λ -, and i-carrageenan - 88 US dollars a hundred grams (Gellenbeck, Chapman, 1983).

In the Chinese People's Republic the principle mariculture objects are: *Laminaria japonica*, *Porphyra*, *Gracilaria*, *Eucheuma*; in Japan - *Porphyra*, *Undaria*, *Laminaria*, the greens; in North and South Korea - *Laminaria* and *Porphyra*, on the Philippines - *Eucheuma*. In a number of countries located in subtropical and tropical areas (China, Taiwan island, Philippines, Vietnam, India, Italy) agar- and carrageenan-containing algae and mainly *Gracilaria* and *Eucheuma* are cultivated.

They are grown as a monoculture or a polyculture with fishes, shrimps and crabs. A project has been developed in the USA for cultivating *Macrocyctis* at ocean farms for power purposes.

All methods employed for algae farming may fall into 3 groups: 1 - totally marine (extensive) cultivation; 2 - individual, usually initial stages of cultivation take place in regulated conditions with the marine cultivation of the end product (intensive-extensive cultivation); 3 - the entire cycle of cultivation is conducted under regulated conditions (intensive cultivation). At the present time and in the near future the most lucrative method is going to be the second one. This method permits to get guaranteed, sufficiently high and shorter term yields compared to the first method. On the other hands it is substantially cheaper, requires lower material and power consumption involved against the third method. This method of mariculture is economically more

beneficial for most countries and allows cultivation in the areas where there is no natural profit-making growths and beyond the limits of the natural area. The bulk of the yield for the currently cultivated algae (around 80%) is obtained using the second method.

The first method (totally marine cultivation) requires insignificant material and power consumption involved, however its yield is inferior to the other cultivation methods and it is highly affected by changing environmental conditions. This method is the cheapest and should ^{one} considerable manpower be available it might become widely used primarily for ^{the}algae cultivation in closed gulfs, lagoons, coastal salt-water ponds to grow red seaweeds as a raw stock for obtaining agar, carrageenan and other gel-producing substances and for consuming as food.

The third method requires highest material and power consumption involved, it is the most expensive one. At the present time the developed countries of North America, Europe and Asia conduct experimental cultivation in special tanks. This method of cultivation should prove lucrative when growing expensive algae to obtain valuable substances.

Tables 1 and 2 feature yields and products obtained with various methods of cultivation.

Table 1

The yield of algae when cultivated in the sea, lagoons, ponds
(extensive and intensive-extensive methods)

Species	Purpose	Country	Yield, dry weight t/ha
Brown algae			
Laminaria	foodstuffs alginates	Japan	20
		China	20
		USSR	10-15
Macrocystis	fuel foodstuffs fertilizers alginates	USA	50-70
Red algae			
Eucheuma	foodstuffs carrageenan	Philippines	13-30
Porphyra	foodstuffs	Japan	8
Gelidium	agar	Japan	2,5
Gloiopeltis	gel-former	Japan	0,45
Gracilaria	agar	Taiwan	2,0
		Italy	2,5

Table 2

The algae yield (dryweight) in regulated systems, intensive
cultivation method (according to Gellenbeck, Chapman, 1983)

Species	$\text{g.m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$
Chondrus crispus	25-30
Gelidium coulterii	17
Gigartina exasperata	11-20
Gracilaria foliifera	7-18 (late summer)
Gracilaria sp.	7-16
Hypnea musciformis	12-17
Iridaea cordata	23-26

Neogarghiella baileyi

6 (winter)

20-40 (spring, summer)

Various methods of seaweed cultivation are employed: a stone and rock-based one, on sea-bottom terraces; on artificial reefs; on artificial substrates submerged in water; on silty and sandy grounds of lagoons, ponds and other enclosed water spaces; in special pools and regulated water tanks. The sea-bottom seaweed cultivation is not widespread. The artificial reef seaweeds farming has and will increasingly go on having great importance for stepping up the natural productivity of coastal areas. A method of submerged cultivation on stationary and movable facilities using artificial substrates (ropes, nets, bands made of conveyor belts, water hoses and tyres) is the most widespread one. Brown, red and green seaweeds are cultivated that way. A soft ground of lagoons and other enclosed water bodies is employed to cultivate unattached forms of red seaweeds, primarily *Gracilaria*. The latter method of seaweed cultivation in special tanks with regulated optimal growth conditions is employed for cultivating the most valuable and expensive weeds both as monoculture or with objects of other trophic levels.

Laminariales and primarily *Laminaria japonica* constitute around 70% of global volume of seaweeds. They are followed volume-wise by *Porphyra*, *Euheuma* and *Gracilaria*. The above species constitute over 95% of biomass provided by all cultivated seaweeds. Most seaweeds (95%) are cultivated in the countries of South-East Asia where they are consumed as food and to a lesser extent employed for extracting agar, carrageenan and alginates used in the textile industry and for other purposes. Nearly all cultivated species may be consumed as food.

A number of recent publications (Gellenbeck, Chapman, 1983; Meer, 1983; North, 1983; Robinson, 1985; Wheeler, Neushul, Waessner, 1979) deal with the universal problems of seaweeds cultivation in various countries and contain data on the present-day status of mariculture, principle species cultivated, their consumption, methods of mariculture, diseases, epiphytes and methods to fight them. Research is under way in the field of commercially cultivated species of seaweeds in order to advance biotechnology involved, to intensify anti-overgrowing measures, to select new, more productive sorts (clones) resistant to diseases and overgrowing. The studies are focused on biology, ecology, life history and production capacity of seaweeds - potential objects of mariculture.

The most significant ecological factors conditioning the growth and yield of seaweeds are: temperature, illumination, biogenes, water velocity and some others. For each particular geographical area one should select the species most adapted to primarily water temperature. Illumination is generally controlled by modifying the depth of cultivation. A shortage of biogenes is generally compensated by the introduction of mineral and organic fertilizers, waste water and by pulling up biogenes-rich depth waters.

At the present time and probably in the future laminarias, agar and carrageenan-containing seaweeds and porphyra remain the principle cultivated species. The main principles and stages for biotechnology of cultivation of these groups will be discussed below.

Various species of laminarias and primarily *Laminaria japonica* and *Undaria* belonging to brown laminarias are the most mass-scale object of cultivation. China cultivates world's largest volume of *Laminaria* (1,0-1,5 mln t of raw mass). This seaweed is the principle object of cultivation in North Korea, South Korea, Japan, USSR.

Biotechnology of cultivating laminaries is sufficiently well developed and described. The general scheme of their cultivation is universal but it has its modifications for individual species and regions.

In their development laminaries have two stages: the sporophyte and gametophyte ones. Different species and the same species from various regions differ by thalluses sizes, time of ripening of sporangiums and spores, optimal conditions for growth and development; time of growth and resorption for various stages and parts of thalluses.

The process of cultivating the laminaries seaweeds consists of the following principle stages: selection of areas for mariculture, preparing for mounting the framework of plantation, preparation of planting and outgrowth substrates and preparation of mother fronds, stimulation of simultaneous mass zoospore stemming from mother fronds by drying, settling of spores on planting and outgrowth substrates, delivering the substrates with fixed and outgrowing embryos to the sea or to special tanks with the regulated environment parameters for growing seedlings, transplanting the seedlings, cultivating the commercial product in the sea. This process is completed by harvesting the crop and its initial treatment (drying, conservation, freezing).

When looking for a place to lay out seaweed farms, special attention should be paid to biological factors of the cultivated species, regional ecological conditions and socioeconomic factors.

In nearly all countries the framework of the plantation (or its construction) comprises two basic horizontally tightened 40-120 m long carrier cables placed at a 5-6 m distance from each other. A cable is tightened by an anchor or pole guys. The cables are held

at a certain depth by special fixers. Ropes and cables of different diameters (5-60 mm) made of synthetic and vegetable fibres are used for the horizontal cables and planting and outgrowth substrates.

In order to obtain viable spores, mother fronds are made either of natural seaweeds growths or they are placed in plantation's specially prepared sectors where they are grown in thinned out beds out of the biggest seedlings. The composing and delivering of the mother fronds should not exceed 1-2 hours; they must be protected from exposure and rain. Mother fronds are dried to stimulate a rapid simultaneous zoospores withdrawal. For this purpose the plants are aired for 4-16 hours under a roof. Another method consists in airing the suspended fronds for 1-4 hours until after all water has disappeared from the surface followed by their juxtaposition with paper, rolling them in rolls and keeping them in cases for 12-24 hours.

The spores are settling on the substrates (ropes, strings) in special tanks, pools, bodies of boats. Layers of dried fronds and substrates are placed into tanks, submerged in sea water and left for 24 hours. In most cases, however, sea water spores suspension is obtained first. It is filtered through a gauze or a cloth, dissolved to a required concentration followed by submerging the substrates into it for 24 hours. The spore-induced substrates are delivered to either a marine plantation or to regulated environmental parameters tanks at special seedlings growing facilities. 2-4 cm long bits of string with 1-2 cm long seedlings are employed as planting material or 10-100 cm long fronds are transplanted on fresh ropes 1-4 plants every 10-40 cm. When cultivating seedlings in the regulated conditions the substrates are mounted on frames

of various constructions; prior to its use sea water is filtered, an optimal temperature, lighting (natural or artificial), content of nutritive substances and aeration are maintained, water is changed, the development of bacteria and microalgae is continuously monitored. The luminaries seaweeds are usually cultivated within a year or two-years cycle. Substrates with seedlings are placed on horizontal cables in the sea every 40-100 cm to obtain a commercial product. When sea water is short of nutritive matter a fertilizer is made use of. The yield amounts to 50-200 t/ha (raw weight). The food-consumed *Laminaria* (Sea kale) should contain up to 20-22% of water. In the Chinese People's Republic 11 special facilities produce 3 billion seedlings annually and distribute them among all state and cooperative farms of the country to yield 1-1,5 mln t of commercial *Laminaria japonica* out of these seedlings. (Blinova, Belov, Maksimov, 1985; Tseng, 1981) In China quality *L. japonica* is sold for 3 yuans a kilo (US 1 dollar is worth 2.2 yuans).

Undaria pinnatifida is cultivated mostly in Japan. The volume of cultivation reaches 100 thou t. exceeding this species natural yield 8 times over. (Rhodes, 1985).

Giant kelps - *Macrocystis pyrifera* and *Macrocystis angustifolia* belonging to brown laminaries seaweeds are equally perspective for cultivation. They reach 20-40 m in length. The giant kelp-oriented major research is conducted in the USA along the California shore where there is an experimental farm. A daily increment amounts up to about 3,8%. The cultivation of *Macrocystis* is believed to become profitable when practiced on ocean farms-platforms with the nutritive matter-increased waters employed as a fertilizer (North, 1980; Harger, Neushul, 1982). A hectare of plantation

accommodates around 1 thousand plants yielding 300-500 t of raw weight annually. Other countries such as China and France are also interested in *Macrocytis*.

In Japan and other countries experiments are under way with *Sargassum hornneri* and *S. muticum*. When cultivated on nets (1,8 x 19 m) within a period of November through April *Sargassum* yielded 200-785 kg of dry weight from 1 net. The biomass is recommended to be employed as a fertilizer and for treating waste waters. (Yamauchi, 1984).

Red algae *Porphyra* spp. is one of the most lucrative cultivated species in Japan, South Korea and to a lower extent in China, USA and some other countries. This species is cultivated to be consumed as food, it contains up to 40% of proteins in dry mass as well as vitamins and microelements. The methods of cultivating *Porphyra* are developed quite well. Japan's demand in this produce is fully met. The annual *Porphyra* yield in Japan amounts to around 300-350 thousand t.

Porphyra spp. has two stages of growth up to 10-50 cm long lamellar gametophyte and fibre-like microscopic sporophyte (conchocells phase) inhabiting shells. Gametophyte produce monospores (asexual reproduction), carpospores and spermatii (sexual reproduction). 15-45 m long, 1,2-2,4 m wide frame-mounted synthetic fibre nets with 15 x 15 cm cells serve as a substrate for cultivating *Porphyra*. The frames are fixed horizontally on poles in the sea drying off at low and submerging at high tide or else floating facilities may be built. Collectors, usually bunches of shells, are placed into *porphyra*'s growths that collect the settling carpospores. Fibre-like conchocells

develop on the collectors out of fertilized carospores. The collectors with conchocells on them are submerged into pools and cultivated there in optimal conditions to obtain conchospores. The developed conchospores settle on the nets in the pools. In autumn the nets carrying the conchospores outgrowth are brought over to the sea to get a commodity mass. A part of nets with the outgrowth are packed into plastic bags and frozen at minus 20-25°C. When necessary these nets are brought into the sea. The commodity Porphyra is usually grown near river mouths when the salt content is reduced and there is an abundance of nutritive substances. There are 2-4 yields in November through March. A 18 x 2m net yields 35-105 kg of raw Porphyra ^{weight}. The yield is picked by special machines. It is flushed, dried, pressed in layers and finally dried off again. Though the cultivation of porphyra has long been industrialized, this process is elaborated still further. Much is being done in the field of selection, upgrading the quality of the product, creating a media for growing porphyra within the phase of conchocells, studying the diseases and a possible preservation of living mature thalluses and availability of conchocells all throughout the year. In China a research is conducted in the area of porphyra selection and of obtaining well developing seedlings out of monospores. (Miura, Merrill, 1982; Li, 1984). There are porphyra growing farms on the US Pacific coast in the Pewjet Sound bay. In this area porphyra grows all around the year. There are several yields a year. The annual growth of demand in this product amounts to 10-30%. 40 mariculture farms equipped with 300 nets each would meet the US need for this product (Freeman, 1985)

The agar and carrageenan-containing red seaweeds are cultivated in three principle ways: on a silty and sandy bottom of shallow lagoons and artificial brackish water ponds; on nets and ropes submerged in the sea; in special tanks with partly or totally regulated environmental (habitat) parameters, that are mounted in the open air conditions or in hothouses. In general a large-scale yield is currently obtained using the first two methods of cultivating *Eucheuma*, *Gracilaria* and to a lower extent *Gelidium*. Numerous successful experiments are under way with such seaweeds as *Chondrus crispus*, *Gigartina*, *Hypnea*, *Iridaea*, *Pterocladia*.

There is a great volume of cultivating *Eucheuma* spp.; a red tropical seaweed consumed as food and used for producing carrageenan. Philippines is the main center of cultivating it. In 1980 the volume of locally cultivated red seaweeds amounted to 133 thousand t, the bulk of the yield being that of *Eucheuma*. The farms are located among the reefs on shallow waters protected from storms and with good streams available. *Eucheuma* is cultivated on nylon nets mounted horizontally (2,5 x 0.5 m). 1 hectare accommodates 800 nets with 100 thousand bunches of plants fixed to them each weighing 200 grams. An experienced worker plants 2-3 nets an hour. Annually there are 4 yields amounting to the overall mass of 13-30 t/ha (dry weight).

Coral reef-located plantations of 2 species of *Eucheuma* have been launched in China where there are 250 ha of plantations with the annual yield of 300 t of dry seaweeds (Liu, Zhuang, 1983). Tanzania has set out to study 5 species of *Eucheuma* and to locate regions suitable for their farming. One of the species - *Eucheuma musciformis* is experimentally cultivated in tanks in the USA. A maximum

daily mass increment amounts to 20-31% at 12,2 kg/m² plant density. Calculations indicate that in order to obtain 1000 t of dry seaweeds the cultivation pools surface should amount to 10 ha and the overall cultivation area - to 24 ha.

5 species of Gracilaria are cultivated at an industrial scale, but the main cultivated species is Gracilaria varrucosa. Gracilaria has a high growth rate, it is eurytherm, inhibits eutropic waters polluted by wastes at depths of 0,5-4 m; it may produce polyploids which opens up wide opportunities for selection; it has a high agar content and may be consumed as food. There are attached and unattached forms of Gracilaria. The unattached form is of the vegetative reproduction. Within the life cycle of the attached form there is a juxtaposition of isomorphic generations of gametophyte and sporophyte, it has a high reproductive potential. The unattached form of Gracilaria is cultivated in shallow lagoons and ponds mainly where an optimum level of salinity, temperature and nutritive matter is maintained by using non-organic and organic fertilizers and wastes. The yield amounts up to 3-10 t/ha of dry weight. When cultivating Gracilaria and some other red seaweeds species the overgrowing is a problem hard to solve. Gracilaria may be cultivated in policulture with crabs, shrimps and other objects.

When cultivating Gracilaria submerged in seawater the nets and ropes are mounted 0.5-2 m deep in a way similar to Porphyra cultivation and the ropes are attached to horizontal cables of the frame. Frond bunches weighing 20-100 gr are intertangled with ropes and nets. There several yields a year. Every yield amounts to 3,5 kg

of dry mass per 1 m of rope annually. When cultivating *Gracilaria* in tanks one may expect to yield 24 t/ha of dry ~~mass~~^{wet} annually at 2-4 kg/m² planting density.

The largest amount of *Gracilaria* (several thousand ton) is cultivated in lagoons and ponds of the island of Taiwan. (Yang, Wang, 1983)

Gracilaria is also cultivated in ponds of Thailand: the annual yield amounts to 7 t/ha a year, agar content - 30%, agar output - 180 t. (Edwards, Tam, 1983). *Gracilaria* is also cultivated in a lagoon on the island of Sicily: the yield is 12 t/ha. In the Caribbean countries edible *Gracilaria* costs 6-6,5 US dollars a kilo. Intensively exhausted, the natural *Gracilaria* resources are getting reduced. The International Development Research Centre based in Ottawa, Canada has launched a program of cultivating this species back in 1980. In the West Indies an annual *Gracilaria* yield may be expected to reach 10 t/ha of dry weight (Smith, Nichols, McLachlan, 1983, 1984). The US annual tank-based *Gracilaria* yield amounts to 127 t of dry mass (Lapoint, Ryther, 1978). The Chinese Peoples Republic suggests to use the same plantations for cultivating *Gracilaria jostedtii* May through November and *Laminaria japonica* December through May. This joint cultivation is economically more profitable. (Li, Chong, Meng 1984)

Research and scientific efforts and the red algae experimental cultivation are under way in a number of countries (USA, Canada, France and some others). In California, USA there are experimental farms for studying and cultivating 2 *Gelidium* species. These species biomass increment amounts up to 1,26% a day. The *Gracilaria*

cultivation farms are believed to be able to become profit-making by stepping up yields via fertilization and selection. Dry Gelidium's price is high (2 US dollars a pound) and goes on rising. (Harger, Neuchul, 1982).

The green algae are cultivated at a lower scale mostly in the countries of South-East Asia. They are consumed as food since they contain up to 26% of proteins, and also as fertilisers and for treating waste waters. A number of *Monostroma*, *Ulva*, *Entromorpha*, *Gaulerpa*, *Cladophora* species are also cultivable. In Japan *Monostroma litissimum* is net-cultivated. A single 18x2m net yields thrice a year an overall amount of 26 kg of raw algae. In Philippines *Gaulerpa racemosa* is cultivated in 5-100 cm deep artificial ponds and on the mangrove area littoral since 1950. (Horstmann, 1983)

Fighting diseases, epiphytes, grazing by the invertebrates constitutes a major problem of algae cultivation. 2 groups of diseases may be identified: those induced by unfavourable environmental conditions (physiological) and by various types of infections (infectious). The physiological diseases are dealt with by creating more favourable conditions for a further growth by reducing the density of planting, ^{by} fertilization, modifying the depth of cultivation, delivering the algae facilities to better water circulation areas etc. The same methods help treat the infectious diseases but various chemicals including antibiotics are also used. The epiphytes are fought against by the following methods: using specific algacides, shaking the cultivated species, controlling and pulsing the nutritive matter in. The biological method of dealing with the epiphytes suggests the use of animals that selec-

tively consume exclusively the epiphytes. Only those species should be cultivated that undergo low epiphytes overgrowing and selection should be conducted with this in mind.

In the Chinese People's Republic; Canada, Norway, USA, Sweden and some other countries efforts are made to select productive, adapted to certain conditions, diseases and epiphytes - resistant, containing an increased amount of nutritive substances clones of *Laminaria*, *Porphyra*, *Gracilaria*, *Gelidium*, *Chondrus*. For the last 25 years high temperature-resistant and highly productive clones of *Laminaria japonica* have been selected and cultivated in the Chinese People's Republic to yield over 1 mln t. The work is going on in this direction.

The chinese, US, swedish experts in genetics and selection of aglae recur increasingly to the method of tissue culture. This method is employed to study, reproduce and preserve the genotypes of various types of algae.

A new way to cultivate algae consists in growing them in the atmosphere saturated with water vapours rather than in water. (Moeller, Garber, Griffin, 1984).

The USSR possesses considerable resources of natural algae, hence the emphasis was laid on probing into the natural raw resources and their rational exploitation. For the last 10 years attention was increasingly focused on mariculture due to a reduction in natural algae resources badly affected primarily by the anthropogenic influence namely pollution, eutrophication and intensive exploitation. Besides, the demand in algae and its products is rising with every passing year. The cultivation of algae will remove a shortage in raw algae and will help preserve nature.

In the USSR the seaweeds cultivation is handled by scientific and research institutes of the USSR Ministry of Fishery and the USSR Academy of Sciences. The main effort of these bodies in the field of commercial seaweeds cultivation is aimed at identifying the most lucrative species of seaweeds to be cultivated in various seas and regions, at developing the biotechnologies of cultivating seaweeds both as an extensive sea culture and as an intensive-extensive culture (seedlings in regulated conditions at special facilities with a further sea cultivation) and as an intensive culture (factory cultivation). It is highly probable that the intensive-extensive method of commercial seaweeds cultivation will emerge as the most lucrative one here like elsewhere.

The USSR is interested in advancing the research to perfect the biotechnology, to create more productive clones of seaweeds with predetermined properties, in prevention and fighting diseases and epiphytes, in raising the profitability of the mariculture farming and in identifying the regions suitable for cultivating commercial seaweeds from the ecological, social and economic viewpoint.

In the USSR boreal seas and primarily in the Sea of Japan, White and Barents seas *Laminarias* appear to be the most perspective species for the cultivation (Blinova, 1984). The Japanese laminaria (*Laminaria japonica*) is cultivated in the Sea of Japan since 1972 and currently there are three farms here with a total plantation area of over 100 hectares. The cultivation is conducted in a two-year cycle. The yield amounts to 70-100 t/ha (raw weight); The *Laminaria* plantations are located in different ecological and climate zones, hence the different periods of ripening for zoospore formation of substrate spores, appearance of seedlings and yield

collection of various farms. The periods of sporification and those of substrates sporing, most favourable ecological conditions for the development of different stages of *Laminaria japonica*, particularities and growth-rate of sporophytes in various seasons of the first and the second year, deadlines for pulling up and lowering the outgrowth substrates have all undergone study and the deadlines for collecting the yield have been positively identified. Work has begun to shorten Japanese *Laminaria*'s two-year cultivation cycle so that it would become a year-long cycle.

This necessitated an acquisition of early ripe zoospores (July-August). Methods of selecting the fronds having a tendency towards an early sporification have been found. A method has been worked out to stimulate an early zoospores ripening by a specially chosen regime of feeding and exposure for a faster accumulation of amino-acids promoting frond's reproductive tissues growth. A technological scheme has been elaborated for a short-term shop-based cultivation of *Laminaria* seedlings. The chemical composition of the *Laminaria japonica* cultivated thalluses has been studied.

(Makienko, Maltsev, Krupnova, 1981; Buyakina, Podkorytova, 1983)

In order to produce more alginates it is necessary to begin cultivating *Costaria costata* in the Sea of Japan. This species has a number of advantages over *Laminaria japonica*: a shorter life cycle (1 year), the spores ripen and outgrowths break out earlier and they are less demanding to the environment (Makienko, Moiseyenko, 1980).

In the USSR boreal seas *Laminaria saccharina*, L, *digitata* are the most lucrative species for the artificial cultivation. (Blinova, 1984; Makarov, 1982). Since 1975 biology has been studied

and biotechnology developed for cultivating *Laminaria saccharina* in the Barents and White Seas. It was proven that *Laminaria saccharina* might be cultivated in the Barents and White Seas in the two-year cycle. The average length of laminaria's frond grown on the rope-based substrates submerged in sea water amounts to 2-3 m, their mass is 400-500 g, the maximum mass being 1-1,5 kg, the expected yield - 50-100 t/ha, the yield is collected in July-August.

An experimental plantation was set up in the Barents Sea in 1983. The experimental large-scale cultivation of *L. saccharina* at the plantation facilities has made it possible to test the results of research conducted for so many years. The plantation-grown laminaria was good both for using it as food and for extracting alginates and mannitol. The yield amounted to 55-60 t/ha of raw weight (Blinova, Makarov, Khokhryakov, 1986). The Barents Sea-based *Laminaria saccharina* yield is similar to the one collected on the *Laminaria japonica* plantations located in the USSR Far East and in Japan.

The problem of agar-containing algae mariculture appears quite urgent and practically important. Unfortunately most high yield agar-containing algae of the USSR seas have a slow growth-rate, they reproduce their resources poorly and in general their cultivation is deficient. The most perspective specie from the viewpoint of cultivation is *Gracilaria verrucosa* having a high growth-rate (Makienko, Maltsev, Krupnova, 1981). The biological study of *G. verrucosa* and the elaboration of its cultivation's biotechnology are conducted at sea and in regulated tanks con-

ditions in the Sea of Japan and the Black Sea. A factory method of cultivating Ahnfeltia and Gracilaria is being developed in the Far East.

Experiments are under way aimed at increasing the overall mass of Furcellaria, a ^{commercially lucrative} red weed found in the Baltic Sea area by setting up artificial reefs and mounting additional fixed substrates at sea. The initial inspiring results have been obtained.

At the present stage the industrial algae processing has reached significant proportions. Primarily it is related to a substantial content of organic substances in algae (up to 70% of polysaccharides, around 30% of alginic and other acids). The algae tissues are marked by a lable content of dry substances - 8 through 30%, the accumulation of minerals - 10 through 25 correspondingly, a level of organic substances content depends on biological and ecological causes, the season and the area where the algae are located.

Table 3

Plant group	Ether soluble	Protein Mx 6,25	Cellulose	Other nonnitro- genous non- lipid organic matter	General organic matter content
Red algae Porphyra-3 species Gelidium, Ahnfeltia Furcellaria, Phyllophoria etc.	0,1-2,8	12,0-44,4	5,1-15,8	45,1	76,4-94,0
Brown algae Laminaria-12 species Sargassum-5 species Fucus -8 species Costaria, Alaria etc.	0,35-3,8	4,6-23,5	5,7-14,4	32,6	50,0-76,0
Green algae Ulva, Enteromorpha	10,7-2,3	10,1-25,0	2,1-6,5	61,1	75,6-88,6

The seaweed raw material is stored by harvesting cultivated and natural growths at their habitat, or by collecting washed away weeds. Freshly harvested seaweeds are unstable due to organic matter decomposition, therefore they are consumed either fresh or they are conserved by way of natural and artificial drying, freezing and chemical conservants treatment. (Chapman, 1980)

The red and brown seaweeds are specifically valuable by the content of their organic matter which makes it possible to obtain the products that are impossible to get from the land-grown plants. The red seaweeds industrial processing is aimed at extracting polysaccharides-carrageenan (fractions: kappa, lambda, jota), furcellaran, agar, employed by the foodstuffs industry as gel-formers and thickeners. These polysaccharides have a common characteristic feature determining a universal technological approach to their extraction. These polysaccharides always contain monomeric galactose, the relationship between galactose remnants - $\alpha(1 \rightarrow 3)$ and $\beta(1 \rightarrow 4)$; they contain a galactose derivative - 3,6-anhydrogalactose; a considerable amount of sulfate, the amount of sulfate content in agar is below 6%, in danish agar-furacellars - 13-18%, in carrageenans - 20-35%; agars and carrageenans molecular weight is within the range of 100 thou. As to the structure of agars, they contain two polysaccharides - agarose and agarpectin. Whereas agarose contains no sulfate at all, agarpectin contains around 10% of it as well as D - glucuronic and pyruvic acids. Furcellarans and (kappa, lambda and jota) carrageenans contain D-galactose and 3,6-anhydrogalactose with a certain sulfate content varying in different types of carrageenan.

Carrageenans, agar, furcellaran are employed in the foodstuffs industry due to their valuable qualities: a capability to form gels and availability of viscous and a number of other technological properties. They are soluble in water: sodium carrageenan and lambda - carrageenan - in cold water; kappa-carrageenan-in hot water at 50°C, furcellaran - at 70°C, agars - when boiling. Under the influence of electrolytes the carrageenans gel-formation is stepped up and when substituting sodium by calcium they form thermotransformable gels. Mixing the carrageenans permits to reach necessary elasticity or texture . At the carrageenans reaction with proteins and saccharines they stabilize milk and fruit mixtures. The 1,0-1,5% carrageenans solutions gels have their melting point within the range of 35-80°C (Dano, 1976).

The carrageenans may be extracted of the following seaweeds: Chondrus, Gigartina, Iridaea, Eucheuma, Hypnea, Furcellaria, Phyllophora. It is noteworthy that carrageenans of these seaweeds contain two fractions, for instance the kappa or jota gel-forming fraction and the lambda thickener fraction.

In a number of countries (USA, France, Denmark, Philippines, Spain, Great Britain, Rumania as well as Japan) the production of carrageenans, furcellarane is based on the technology made up of the following major processes: extraction; purification of carrageenan, bringing it out of solution and drying (Martin, 1984).

The extraction of carrageenans boils down to keeping washed seaweeds in an alkali or salts warmed or lukewarm solutions. Depending on the product to be extracted, the temperature of extraction, concentration and a reactive and raw material ratio are selected accordingly.

When extracting lambda carrageenan the operation is

carried out in a large hydromodule at a moderate temperature; while extracting kappa and jota carrageenan the process requires an increased temperature and a low hydromodule to be employed.

Upon mixing the carrageenan solution with diatomite, a cellulose powder, carrageenan is purified by filtration. The alkali solution-based derivation of carrageenan is accompanied by a simultaneous extraction of soluble salts, pigments whereas the totality of cellulose components, hemicelluloses and a larger part of protein remain unsolved and are removed.

The extraction of carrageenan from the solution (filtrate) is alcohol-based. A water extract containing 1% of dry matter is poured into alcohol (isopropanol or ethanol). Efforts are made to decrease the amount of alcohol used for extracting carrageenan. There are methods of carrageenan's purification, concentration and clarification by treating the extract in ~~diffusion~~ filtration modules of different designs equipped with ultrafilters (Strong, 1975, Kosaka Masumi, 1984).

Carrageenan falls out as a sediment in highly concentrated alcohol. In certain cases it is gel-like. Potassium chloride is added prior to the alcohol treatment to ameliorate the dehydration of tissues. The sedimentation is also possible when carrageenan is frozen. With this method employed for the seaweeds containing a large amount of kappa-carrageenan (phylophores, furcellarias), potassium chloride is added to the filtrate. A gel-like sediment is collected and frozen with a resulting separation of crystallized water. After washing it up in the potassium chloride solution, the sediment is pressed to remove the largest amount possible of the salt solution. After this the sediment is vacuum-dried till a 10% humidity

is attained in it, then it is pulverized so that the diameter of particles ranges 200-300 microns.

The method of extracting, say, iota - carrageenan differs. (US Patent 3849395). When extracting iota - carrageenan out of *Eucheuma spinosum*, *Agardiella tenera* in order to step up a gel-forming capacity it is modified in the potassium hydroxide solution followed by its neutralization till it reaches pH 8. ^{The} Citric acid (pH 3) is added to the iota-carrageenan solution which is followed by heating till 82°C and held that way for 4 hours. Then sodium alkali is added till pH 7 and the solution is cooled. The processes that follow are similar to those employed for extracting other carrageenans. The use of the above technology allows to extract rather pure carrageenans.

In conformity with the carrageenans quality and properties, assessment chart worked out by The National Center for Coordination of Foodstuffs Research (France) they should meet the following requirements (Rioux, 1984):

Appearance - yellowish or colourless powder
Taste - vegetable slime

Content:

humidity - below 12% following a 4-hour long 105°C drying
ethanol or
isopropanol - below 1%
(dry matter)
sulfates - over 15% and under 40%
ash unsolved in
1% sulphuric acid
solution - under 2%

ash - over 15% and under 40% of dry matter following a
550°C calcination.

viscosity of 1.5%

solution

at 75°C - over 5 cP

In accordance with the established norms the content of metallic impurities (mg/kg) constitutes: zinc -10; arsenic -3; copper -25.

In the USSR the agaroid and furcellaran gel-formers are derived from *Phyllophora nervosa* and *Furcellaria fastigata* seaweeds containing carrageenan at an industrial scale.

The technology of extracting these gel-formers varies due to specific natural features of the seaweeds containing polysaccharides but basically the production is similar to the technologies of processing the carrageenan-containing seaweeds employed in other countries.

When extracting agaroid and furcellaran, particular attention should be attached to the preparation of seaweeds prior to the extraction allowing to remove soluble salts, nitrogenated matter, low-molecular polysaccharides; it modifies the structure of high-molecular polysaccharides and substantially shortens the time and reduces the effort spent on extracting the product. Processing *Phyllophora* with the hydrochloric acid followed by the sodium alkali neutralization results in producing agaroid used for making sugar-based mixtures because the use of this treatment affects the stability of water solution agaroid gel. (The USSR Inventor's Certificate 938902)

Treating seaweeds with hot sodium alkali solution (2% concentration and more) suggested for extracting from *Phyllophora* a gel-

former named "Phyllophorin" makes it possible to extract a highly stable gel product, especially so when mixed with 70% of sugar, and ameliorates gel-formation properties of water solution (The USSR inventor's certificate, 603367)

To secure a relatively total gel-formers extraction it is conducted at pH 6,5-7,5, within the 1:15 through 1:30 raw material and extragent ratio range at the temperature of 98-100°C in a battery of extractors or using the method of continuous diffusion which proves to be most effective (Boydyk, 1974). The effectiveness of extracting furcellaran in a week alkali has been substantiated (Pyay, 1980).

The choice of the technology for extracting carrageenan is determined by the direction of its further use. From the economic viewpoint it is lucrative to extract a purified product (making use of the technologies employed in the countries of Western Europe and Japan). This product could be effectively utilized very sparingly in the foodstuffs technology which would decrease its consumption as a whole.

The data concerning the use of carrageenans for producing foodstuffs is summarized in Tables 4 and 5 (Martin, 1984)

Table 4

Volume of world sale and consumption of carrageenans (1982)

Country	Population, mln	Carrageenans sales, t	Carrageenans consumption	
			Foodstuffs Industry, t	annual per capita, g
USA	240	3200	2700	11
Great Britain	55	1700	600	11
Japan	110	1700	1400	13

Germany	60	1700	1100	18
France	55	1500	1000	18
Other countries		4200	2800	
	Total	14000	9600	

Table 5
Use of carrageenans in France

Use	Foodstuffs	Principle functions	Doses used, %
In water	desserts	gel-formation	0,8-1,2
	Low-calories jams	gel-formation (little sugar)	0,5-1,0
	additives to fruit juices, syrups	suspensions	0,1-0,5
	edible dressing (for frozen fish)	gel-formation	0,8-1,2
	jell. souces	thickening	0,4-0,6
In milk	concentrated milk	fat, protein particles stabilization	0,01-0,02
	cocoa with milk	prevents cocoa from subsiding	0,02-0,03
	pastry cream	thickening	0,2-0,3
	milk jelly	gel-formation	
	ice-cream	mixed with other stabilizers	0,01-0,05
	milk drinks	giving shape	0,1-0,4
	whipped cream	stabilization	0,05-0,5

In the USSR agaroid, fur-cellaran along with food agar are mainly used for producing confectionaries and ice-cream.

Table 6
Use of agaroids, furcellarane and agar in the USSR

Items	Doses used, %		
	agaroid	furacclaran	agar
Fruit jellies	0,3	0,2	-
Fruit fudge	-	-	0,6
Marshmallow	-	-	0,9
Pastry cream dressing	-	0,8	0,04-0,15
Pastry cream	-	0,8	0,04-0,15
Candies filling	4,0	-	1,5
Ice-cream	0,01	-	0,01

Gelidium (16 species), Pterocladia (4 species), Gracilaria (6 species), Ahnfeltia (2 species) are used for extracting agar.

In recent years while extracting agar the attention is focused on treating the seaweeds prior to extraction. It consists in cold and hot water washing, soaking in alkali and acid solutions and it is aimed at raising the yield and stability of agar-gel. In Argentina, Mexico, India, Shri-Lanka, Chili, Japan and Vietnam Gracilaria is treated by a 2-10% concentration sodium hydroxide solution. In Japan the use of this method stipulates that the quality seaweeds are processed for 2-3 hours at 85-90°C, whereas the low-grade weeds are treated for 0,5-2,0 hours at 70-75°C correspondingly (Okazaki, 1970).

In a number of countries seaweeds are processed by acid

solutions, sometimes after soaking in alkali. At a plant in Chile *Gracilaria* is first soaked in a 2,5% solution of sodium hydroxide for 1,5 hours, then washed in a 0,3% sulphuric acid solution, washed again following which agar is extracted. (Chapman, 1980).

The employment of alkali or acid treatment speeds up considerably the agar extraction process. In the case of *Gelidium* it goes down from 4 to 0,5 hours. In Japan the temperature employed for extracting agar depends primarily on the type of material: the extraction out of *Gracilaria*, easily boiled soft is carried out at 100°C, and that out of *Gelidium*, that is hard to boil - at 125°C in autoclaves.

The purification of extracts is made up of sedimentation, filtration and centrifugation whereas water soluble, dying, protein and mineral matter is removed by washing and gel-pressing, ion exchanging resins treatment, extract's diatomite treatment and treating it by activated carbon (Cooper, 1977; Selby et al., 1973).

The dehydration of purified extracts (gels) holding 99 and 90-94% of water is an important and complicated operation. In Japan when extracting quality agar from *Gelidium Annafeltia* gels freezing out in natural conditions is recurred to. The agar dehydration for the purposes of food is carried out by pressing gel like agar, out and its drying. Most agar-extracting enterprises in Spain, Latin America, South-East Asia employ atomization to dry the agar extract or its drum drying which is detrimental due to a modification in gel-forming properties, stepping up production's power consumption at the same time.

In the USSR agar is extracted from *Ahnfeltia plicata* inhibits

the White Sea and *Ahn. tobuchiensis* of the the Far-East Seas. The agar-extracting technology involves a raw material treatment by 0.3-0.5 solutions of calcium hydroxide. Polysaccharide is obtained by continuous autoclave extractions at 120-125 C at 1:12 raw material - extract ratio. In order to remove mechanic impurities the extract is filtered and decanted. After having been decanted the extract is cooled. The gel is cut in plates, washed in water, bleached in sodium hypochloride. The most effective method of purification consists in sedimentation of non-agar matter by adding a calcium carbonate suspension to the *Ahnfeltia* agar extract on the basis of 200-300% of calcium oxide to the extract dry matter and a consequent centrifugation. (Maslyukov, 1971).

There are several methods of dehydrating the agar-containing gels in the practice of processing *Ahnfeltia*. One of them consists in melting the washed gel, separating the remaining impurities out of the solution thus obtained, concentrating it in a vacuum-drier and drying it by atomization or by drum-drying. Another method is used for extracting quality agar. It stipulates that the product is dried following the defrostation of agaroid obtained by freezing both in natural conditions or after gel's dehydration by pressing. (Maslyukov, 1971).

In recent years a sublimation drying method is increasingly applied for drying agar gels, permitting to obtain a quality product.

Methods of extracting agar in the world practice of processing the agar-containing seaweeds are similar. A certain difference is due to varying raw materials and production potentials.

The share of extracting and using agar for making foodstuffs is lower than that of carrageenans in all countries (excluding

Japan). The unique properties of frozen agar, that is its ability to produce elastic, stable and transparent gels are effectively employed in other sectors, basically in medicine.

A biochemical particularity of *Laminaria*, *Boklonia*, *Macrocystis*, *Bisenia*, *Fucus*, *Ascophyllum*, *Sargassum* brown seaweeds consists in the amount of alginic acid salts they contain. (around 30%). The alginic acid, some commercial alginates are characterized by a high molecular weight -around 200 thou., and their solutions have considerable viscosity ranging 100-600 centipoises (cP).

The industrial production of alginates in the USA, France, Norway, Japan and the countries of South America generally embraces: a pretreatment of seaweeds, extraction of alginates, filtration of their solutions, sedimentation of the alginic acid, obtaining a soluble form of alginate.

Acid pretreatment of seaweeds permits to remove soluble mineral and organic matter, to make alginic acid salts soluble (Hardihorst, 1977; Mateus et al., 1877; Duville et al., 1974). Then the alginates are extracted from seaweeds in an alkali solution (pH 10) making use of mainly sodium carbonate (Haug, 1868; Okazaki, 1971). After having been mixed with an adsorbent the alginates solutions are purified with various types of filters, used consecutively, centrifuged, separated, floated. A combination of these methods is frequently employed. (Chapman, 1980; Wright 1973; Hasebe, 1978)

The sedimentation of the alginic acid is caused by oxidizing the purified solutions till it reaches pH 1.5-3.0. The sedi-

ment of alginic acid is washed in cold and hot water, bleached in sodium hypochlorite, washed in alcohol, then dried in vacuum in an infra-red source drier and powdered (Chapman, 1980). The alginic acid serves as a semifinished item for obtaining various alginates including sodium alginate and calcium alginates employed in foodstuffs technology.

At the present moment the USSR does not extract alginate for food producing technical sodium alginate instead. However the research centers of the country are active in searching for the ways to perfect technologies of extracting the alginic acid and alginates out of *Laminaria saccharina*, *Laminaria digitata*, *Laminaria japonica* (also the cultivated one), *Fucus vesiculosus*, *F. serratus*.

Thus it has been positively established that treating *Laminaria* with weak mineral acids solutions to remove salts and organic compounds promotes an increased alginates yield and a stepped up viscosity of its solutions (Podkorytova, 1985). The purification of alginate solutions consisting in filtration of water-solved animal glue after sedimentation followed by removing seaweeds minute particles by way of electroflootation has also proven effective (Vrishch, 1976). A suggestion has been put forward to treat *Laminaria* twice by a weak solution of hydrochloric acid followed by washings and the extraction of sodium alginate to increase the yield and to shorten the duration of the process. The yield of alginate constitutes 21% of dry seaweeds, the molecular weight is 90 thou. This technology excludes the operations of alginic acid sedimentation and its washing. (The USSR inventor's Certificate, 1113078).

The world practice of extracting the alginates (in Great Britain, USA; Norway, France, Chile and India) used also for foods among other things is indicative of economic effectiveness of processing ^{the} brown seaweeds. Along with the carrageenans, alginates are widely used in foodstuffs technology. The effect of these hydrocolloids is similar to that of carrageenans apart from the fact that along with the texture formation they are capable of imparting the necessary organoleptic properties to food mixtures making them elastic, stable and thickened.

Table 7 indicates characteristics and principle uses of some alginates produced by Protan company (Norway).

Table 7.
Use of alginates in Norway

No	Trademarks of alginates	Viscosity % solution cP	Principle use	Notes
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Protanal S	600	Foodstuffs	1-8 - sodium alginates;
2.	Protanal SF	600	same	
3.	Protanal L	250	same	
4.	Protanal LF	250	same	9 and 10 - sodium-calcium alginates
5.	Protanal DG3	250	gel	
6.	Protanal JC	250	ice-cream	
7.	Protanal JCL	250	ice-cream	the colour of dry alginates is white;
8.	Protan Frostgel powder S.	10-30	meat, fish freezing	
	Protan BR, SF, ABHF, ABH, ABHR, ABHF, SPH, SPTH	10-30		pH of solutions - 6-7
9.	Protanal VR		cakes	
10.	Protanal VR 687		cakes	

Hydrocolloids extracted from seaweeds should not be considered as food seasonings because they are known not to be digested by human organism, but in a number of cases they constitute an indispensable technological additive making a product formation possible. In the countries of the European Economic Community (EEC) (in France and FRG, for instance) a permitted daily consumption dose for adults is: carrageenan - 19,3-22,7; alginates - 8,6-10,1; agar - 7,7-9,1 (Kuhnert, 1980).

The strategy of controlling a content of hydrocolloids in food, their intensification and the requirements they are to meet, methods of analyzing their content (reliability, quickness, precision and reproducibility of results) - all these problems were treated at the 2nd International Conference on the "Gums and stabilizers in the foodstuffs industry" that took place in Wrexham, Wales, G.B. in June 1983 (Phillips, 1984). Besides, in the framework of the EEC countries the discussion focused on using hydrocolloids in various foodstuffs including the canned ones. Also discussed were the problems of permissible doses for a daily consumption and those of specifying their purity.

Research is conducted to standardize the equipment (rheographs, viscoelastometers, texturometers) securing high-precision results of a modification of characteristics for the systems mixed with hydrocolloids to determine the optimal regimes for processing and preserving foods. (Fiszment et al., 1982). At the same time the necessity is discussed of reducing a great deal of rheological characteristics and of selecting several parameters reflecting the conduct of hydrocolloids in solutions and gels.

A number of countries, primarily those of Far East Asia (Japan, China, North and South Korea, Philippines etc.) widely consume natural and cultivated seaweeds as food.

In this situation the attention is focused on working out the processes of their conservation to retain their nutritive value and attractive commercial appeal. Fresh seaweeds to be preserved by freezing or drying undergo decoloration by acetic acid treatment with an ensuing washing and airing in the sun or by hydrogen peroxide treatment with the presence of acetic anhydride (Masero Sigehiro, 1974.) In Japan around 30 items of fish, mollusc, vegetables, vinegar, sugar, souces, flour (noodles, vermicelli) mixtures based solely on Laminaria are produced and sold.

Tableted and granulated grain-like flour or lactose-based fresh products are prepared from Undaria to make the maximum use of components beneficial for human organism. (Ikue Takao, 1981).

In the Mediteeranean countries Sargassum is used for preparing semifinished dishes packed in plastic bags, freeze-mixed with carrots, fish or tomato souce. The products have a low calories content, however they incorporate vitamin C, iron, iodium, thus meeting adult's daily demand in them. (El-Dashlouty, 1982).

The peoples of the Orient (Japan, Philippines, Vietnam) traditionally employ liquid taste seasonnings based on concentrated extracts from brown seaweeds and glutominates. Sweet sandwich pastes are also prepared that contain Laminaria and Underia-extracted paste-like mass mixed with a fat-free fish meal, dry milk, sugar, white miso, honey, crushed sesame seeds (Kobayasi Tosikharu, 1980).

Upon completion of the campaign of evaluating the digestibility of various foods containing seaweeds-based dishes, highly nutritive products containing Laminaria powder or paste added in 2-15% to meat, bakery, stuffed sterilized fish products as an edible dressing for packaged filets are growing ever more popular. (Askar, 1982; Herve, 1984; Pilnik et al., 1984, Ofstad, 1983).

In the USSR food-used Laminaria japonica and Lam. saccharina apart from being crushed to powder, flour, granules are also preserved in frozen, dried, salted and marinated state. They are commonly used in cooking and ^{the} canned foods production. Depending on the type of canned food it is made-up of vegetables, fish, mollusc meat, sugar syrup, tomato juice and spices along with seaweeds. (Yevleva, 1979).

Complex processing of seaweeds (in Japan, China) is a principally novel trend that is economically sound especially for the cultivated brown seaweeds because it is aimed at maximum possible extraction of this material's valuable components. Using stage extraction and organic solvents, fractions are extracted of lipids, vitamins and other biologically active matter (mannit, pigments) to be employed in medicine and other sectors. Hot water is used for extracting the alginic acid, polysaccharides (for the foodstuffs industry) and seaweed sediment (for feeds) (Tomikanera Takasi, 1984)

The development of industrial stock-breeding causes a necessity to search for the ways to utilize seaweeds as animal feed. It is widely known that the brown seaweeds (fresh, water washed, chopped; boiled) are used as an independent feed or as an additive to the

daily diet of animals. The complex of valuable matter contained in seaweeds permits to use them primarily as a vitamin and mineral additive. (Table 5).

Since long ago and up to the present time the animal atock of various coastal countries of the worls is kept on "marine" pastures during the ebb-time where they feed on seaweeds. In Iseland sheep, cows and horses graze on such pasrures throughout the winter and in certain regions in summer too. Gencrally horses prefer Laminaria feeding on young thalluses, cows appreciate Rhodymenia and Alaria.

In Norway sheep are regularly kept in coastal areas. In Scotland cows and sheep graze on coastal pastures where they feed on various species of seaweeds. In the Orkney Islands and other small islands there are local breeds of sheep that graze seaweeds all their life through. In France, in Normandy and Bretagne along with the natural breeding on pastures, there is a stall breeding when the animals are fed with a mixture of seaweeds washed in fresh water and bran. On the american coast too cows and poultry ferd on fresh seaweeds. On the Comaror Islands seaweeds are an integral part of the daily diet of Arctic foxes. The experiments carried out in Cuba have indicated that an Ulva additive amounting to 10% of the daily diet has increased the growth-rate of poultry.

The production of flour based on seaweeds has been launched in a number of countries. The world production amounted to over 100 thou t with Norway occupying the leading position(Lavrovskaya;1950)

The seaweeds-detived flour steps up the yield of dairy milk, poultry eggs and sheel wool yield and cuts down the incidence of animal tuberculosis and stomatit. The addition of 3% of flour t

daily diet meets animals demand in calcium, phosphorus and vitamins (Kizewetter, 1980. The Ascophyllum- based flour digestion ratio (per dry weight) constitutes only 29.7% for sheep, 26.2% for pigs, whereas in the case of the Laminaria flour - 66.2 and 71% correspondingly. This is indicative of varying levels of nitrogen matter in brown seaweeds (Chapman, 1970)

Table 8

Comparative chemical composition (% of dry matter)
of brown seaweeds, flour, conventional feeds. (Chapman, 1970)

Macrophyte seaweeds	Water	Proteins	Fats	Ash	Cellulose	Carbo- hydrates
Fucus vesiculosus + Fuc. serratus	12.4	5.0	2.0	13.1	5.5	62.0
Fucus serratus + Fuc. balticas	12.3	4.4	0.8	16.0	5.7	68.0
Ascophyllum nodosum	11.1	6.0	3.1	17.8	5.8	56.0
Laminaria hyperborea	12.4	5.9	0.8	13.7	3.6	63.7
Laminaria saccharina	14.6	6.4	0.7	16.6	3.3	59.4
Laminaria digitata	18.6	5.8	0.6	1.3	26.7	36.6
Brown seaweeds cali- fornian flour	9.1	5.6	0.4	38.5	5.8	40.6
Brown seaweeds nor- way flour	3.5	7.5	3.0	19.0	8.0	52.0
Danish flour	5.0	13.1	1.1	5.9	9.0	66.7
Scotch flour	15.5	0.9	1.5	27.5	9.3	35.3
Oats	3.3	10.3	4.8	-	10.3	58.2
Potato tops	-	7.3	0.4	5.1	2.8	84.5
Hay	14.3	9.7	2.5	-	26.3	41.4

It is counter-productive to use red seaweeds as an animal feed component since they contain such a valuable matter as agar and carrageenan. Besides these polymers are stable in withstanding the action of digestive ferments which should not be ignored when assessing a nutritive value of seaweeds.

In the USSR the processing of seaweeds is accompanied by the utilization of production wastes (after extracting the gel-formers) to obtain the source products for deriving proteins and amino acids. For this purpose the seaweed wastes undergo an additional treatment. It is recommended to recur to the technology of extracting feed hydrolyzate from *Ahnfeltia* wastes which incorporates a hydrochloric acid treatment of wastes to achieve demineralization with the ensuing sulphuric acid hydrolysis and dry calcium oxide neutralization. (Zimina, 1979).

Hydrolyzate constitutes a protein additive for a balanced amino acid and mineral composition of feeds.

This product appears as a dark-brown liquid smelling of dried mushrooms. It incorporates (%): dense matter - 29.5, general nitrogen - 2.1, non-organic matter - 1.15, including both biogenic macro and microelements.

The method of producing the seaweed aminopeptide feed powder of high biological activity from *Phylophora* and *Furcellaria* has been developed and extensively tested. (The USSR Inventor's Certificate, 1487876). This product incorporated: crude protein (55-60%) amino acids (45%). The ratios of luecine, irreplaceable and replaceable amino acids are optimal. The seaweeds aminopeptide is effectively employed for fish farming in ponds. (Boiko et al., 1979)

Despite a growing output of fertilizers, numerous countries particularly the newly independent ones are short of them, whereas macrophyte seaweeds are rich in organic and mineral matter. Apart from nitric extracts, the unfixed amino acids are biologically the most prominent ones. Their content in brown seaweeds constitutes 17.9 - 87.4 mg%, in red algae - 19-221 and in green ones - 44-86 mg% of the dry matter. Nitric bacteria cultures introduced in the peat and chernozom soils are protected from a deterioration by carbohydrates incorporated in seaweeds (40-70% content) whereas the alginic sodium salt causes sandy soils to become denser acquiring better physical properties due to lumping. (Chapman, 1980)

All seaweeds incorporate a relatively high amount of calcium but little phosphorus: green ones - 2.7%, brown and red ones - up to 0.3% of the dry matter (Romankevich). Phosphorus salts should be added to render effective the seaweeds fertilizers. Generally the seaweed ash should have a diverse content of macro- and microelements. It is commonly known that provided they are used correctly microelements substantially upgrade the quality of produced plants.

The utilization of seaweeds (mixture of brown and green seaweeds) as fertilizers in the agriculture of coastal areas of a number of countries has been practiced for centuries. The seaweeds are put into the soil fresh and uncut or chopped and mixed with peat or organic fertilizer to form a compost, or else they are used as specially prepared extracts. Brown seaweeds swept up on the shore are employed as fertilizers mostly when mixed with some others. Red seaweeds are rarely employed for this purpose. The fertilizing quality of seaweeds depends on their time of drifting in the sea, weather and the strength of waves.

In Ireland, Scotland, France and in Alaska and on the American Pacific coast such seaweeds as, say, *Ascophyllum* and *Laminaria* are used primarily for growing potatoes. In Great Britain the volume of seaweeds fertilizing the soil amounts to 40 t/ha. This prevents virus diseases from expanding, the potato "mange" from developing and decelerates the growth-rate of the potato weeds. In Scotland the fertilizer seaweeds are chopped and buried 10-15 cm deep at the rate of 65-75 t/ha. In Ireland plantations are fertilized with seaweeds in the stubble period in autumn. In South Africa mixed *Koklonia* and *Laminaria* seaweeds are used as a soil conditioner.

Maxicrop, Algynure and Scargo fertilizers produced by dehydrating *Fucales* with alkali are used in hothouses, hotbeds and in gardens. Maxicrop incorporates 94,8% of dry matter: organic components - 51,2%, ash -43,6%, humidity -5,2% (Chapman, 1980)

The use of red seaweeds for fertilizing or the amelioration of the soils by the lime pretreatment of acidified areas is widespread in France. It is believed that the effect of this seaweed fertilization is slow in coming, therefore they are not to be applied each year. In the Bretagne province seaweeds are used as compost mixed with organic fertilizers. Such a fertilizer is used for growing alfalfa and meadow grasses. In India and Sri-Lanka many species of seaweeds, *Gracilaria* among them, are mixed with low-grade fish and put into the soil to fertilize coffee plantations.

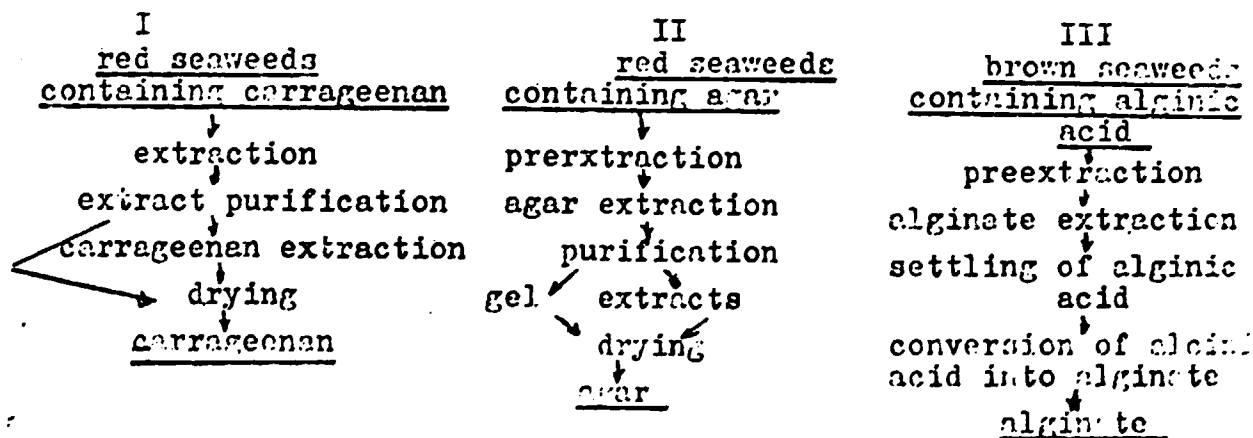
In the USSR the wastes of processing *Furcellaria* (after extracting furcellaran) are used as fertilizers on agricultural fields.

The development of the direction making use of biologically active substances - growth regulators (auxins, hybberelpins, cytokinins) individually extracted from brown Laminaria, Ecklona, Fucus as a means of agricultural plants treatment to enhance their yields and to ameliorate the quality of plants appears very important (Zaitsev et al., 1980).

The data that has been used does not exhaust all possible options for utilizing the seaweeds. Numerous research efforts exerted around the world within the framework of seaweeds processing indicate that there are real opportunities of expanding their use, particularly so provided the raw material base is stabilized by cultivating the seaweeds.

A growing amount of extracted carrageenans and alginates will make it possible to remove such a valuable product as agar is from the technology of foods processing and to use it exclusively in medicine for preparing diagnostics nutritive media, vaccines for the benefit of human health and that of the animals.

The industrial processes of the world-wide production of carrageenan, agar and alginates extracted from the seaweeds may be summarized for the ends of comparison as follows (Schemes I-III):



The leading producer-countries in this field focus their efforts on perfecting various technological methods with the view of upgrading the quality and expanding the output of gel-formers and thickeners. The experience accumulated by these countries in the field of industrial production should be shared by other countries to launch or to expand their production. For example: agar from cultivated *Gracilaria* in Vietnam as well as alginate from *Sargassum*; alginate from cultivated *Laminaria* in North Korea; alginate from *Macrocystis* in Peru; in the future - carrageenan from *Eucheuma* in Tanzania

In "Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR" a great deal of attention is attached to creating and perfecting biotechnologies. A business-like cooperation with other countries including the CMEA countries will promote a successful solution of these tasks. The USSR is developing business contacts with a number of countries. Due to the fact that the countries of South-East Asia have centuries-old traditions and make great strides forward in commercial seaweeds cultivation our country has sent a number of scientific groups to study the experience of cultivating the seaweeds in Korean People's Democratic Republic, Chinese People's Republic and Japan.

It is especially important to launch a program of using and cultivating ~~the~~ seaweeds in the countries of Africa, Central and South America. The major commercial species found here are: *Macrocystis*, *Lessonia*, *Durvillaea* among brown algae inhabiting moderate and *Sargassum* dwelling in tropical latitudes. There are several species of red seaweeds: *Gracilaria*, *Pterocladia*, *Gelidium*, *Hypnea*, *Gigartina*, *Eucheuma*, *Porphyra* (de Oliveira, 1981).

These same species may become the objects of mariculture.

In the countries of Central and South America and in Africa including the developing countries, seaweeds are traditionally ignored or used as food at a very low scale even in the conditions of severe foods shortage. Taking into consideration seaweeds very high nutritive value and an extremely beneficial health effect the use of seaweeds as food products should be extensively publicized in these and other countries of the world. Owing to the fact that the natural resources in a number of countries are limited and in some of the others they could be easily dwindled by a large-scale exploitation, it is necessary to elaborate the cultivation technology for the leading objects of mariculture in the coastal waters of various regions keeping in mind geographical, ecological social and economic particularities of the countries.

The seaweeds constitute a national asset, a treasure of every coastal country of the world, a valuable raw material source. The use of seaweeds especially within the framework of a more extensive complex extraction of organic matter will promote man's well-being, will influence the economy, including that of the developing countries despite the expenditures made, human effort consumed in the area of cultivation and processing of this source of raw materials.

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