



Interventions in Gender-Blind Climate Change: Rethinking Climate Adaptation Policies through Women's Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Tanzania

Betsy Beymer-Farris
Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program
University of Kentucky, USA

Global Seaweed Boom

Seaweed farming is a \$6.4 billion dollar business led by China, South Korea, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Tanzania.



07-27-20 | CORONAVIRUS

This seaweed extract outperforms COVID-19 drug remdesivir in the lab

And it could be used to develop preventive treatments.



[Images: davorankin/istock, Phantima/Photo/istock]

How seaweed farming improves the global food system

carrageenan is **CULTIVATED** by family farmers

more than **200,000 tons/year** of small, farmed tropical seaweed using sustainable farming techniques

promotes **BIODIVERSITY** with **no major seascape change**

NO fresh water needed / **NO** arable land

Chragginarin formulated into shelf-stable beverages, dairy desserts and more.

NO REFRIGERATION REQUIRED reducing energy costs during transport & in store

less waste WORLDWIDE

Kosher, Vegan, Halal

less FAT and sugar

better global food security / better access to good nutrition

Hand-harvested seaweed provides a sustainable foundation for a food system that can feed the world. And sustainability is essential to feed a world of **7 BILLION PEOPLE**



PERSPECTIVE ARTICLE

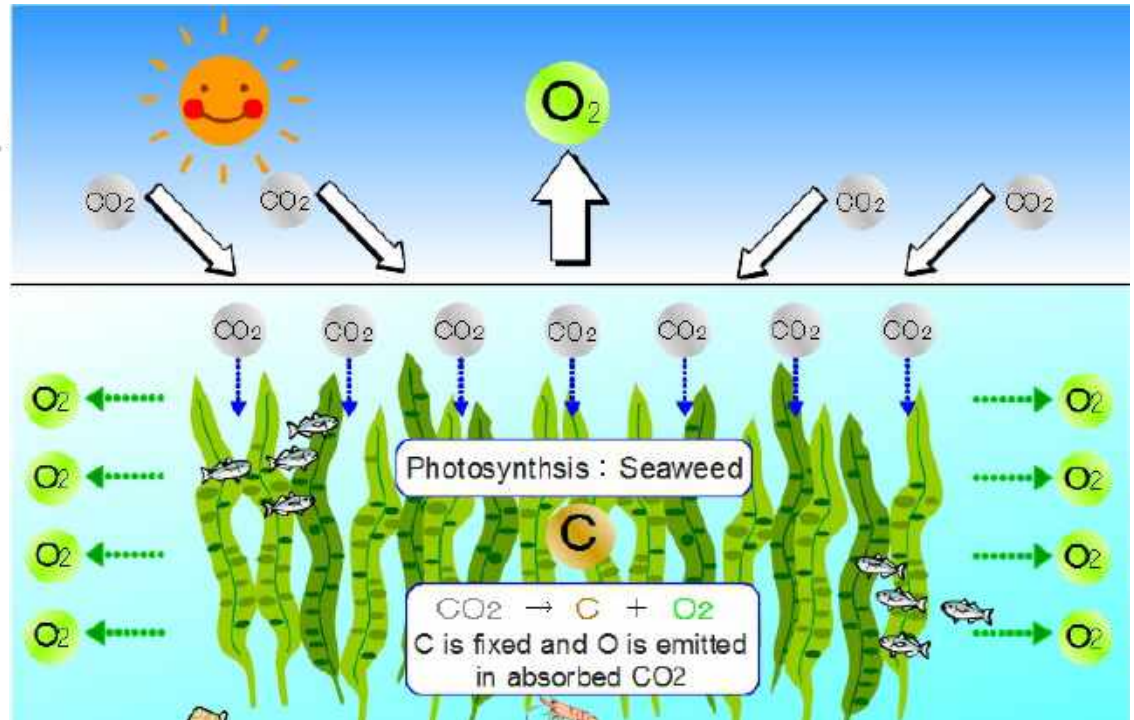
Front. Mar. Sci., 12 April 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2017.00100>

Seaweed aquaculture: an innovation platform for the Blue Economy

05/03/2016 | By Nicholas Paul | Blog

Can Seaweed Farming Play a Role in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation?

 Carlos M. Duarte^{1,2,3*}, Jiaping Wu⁴, Xi Xiao⁴, Krause-Jensen^{2,3}



Seaweed Farming: Women's Work Is it a triple win? For Women, for Climate Change, and for Development?





Despite the Possibility of a Triple Win, Seaweed Farming is Seemingly Doomed in Mafia Island, Tanzania

- 700 shillings (\$0.32 USD) per kg of dried seaweed paid to women in Mafia Island **IF** they can sell it.
- Processed carrageenan prices sold for the global market are estimated from \$50 to \$100 USD per kg.



Kappaphycus alvarezii



Eucheuma denticulatum

Need to Challenge Gender-Blind Climate Change Policies



- Gender is a critical variable that interacts with class, caste, race, culture, and ethnicity in shaping resource access and control, processes *and knowledges* of ecological change, the struggle of men and women to sustain ecologically viable livelihoods, and the prospects of “sustainable development”.
- Despite this, climate change policies are overwhelmingly gender-blind.

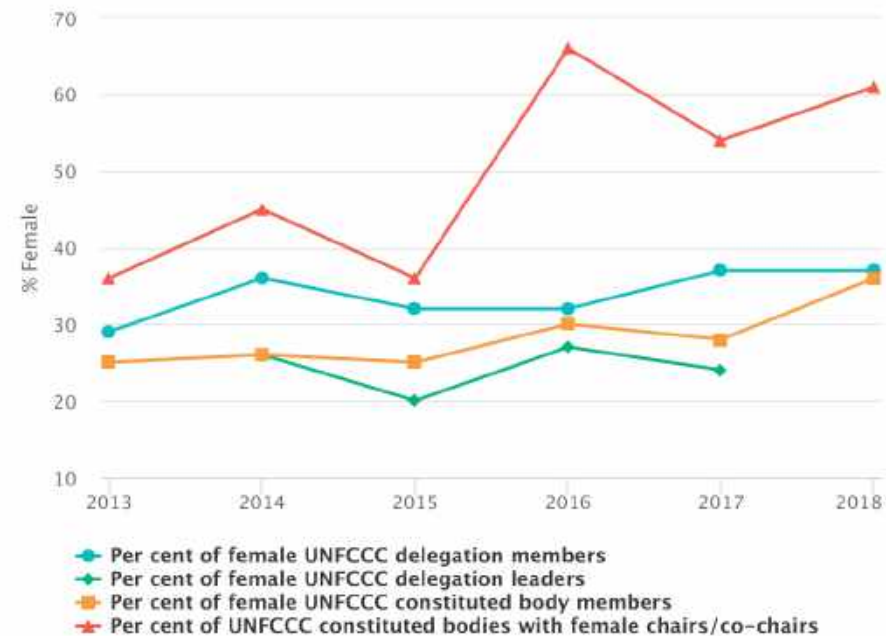
If you don't have a seat at the table, you are probably on the menu!

Unpacking Gender Representation in Climate Change Policy



“Women in the UN Climate Negotiations: Are we tipping the balance? “

Female representation in the UN climate negotiations



Information and data from the UNFCCC's Gender Composition Reports, 2013-18.

When more women are decision-makers, the environment wins

By [Lisa Marshall](#) • 📅 March 21, 2019



Women farmers in Tanzania

Women's Political Representation at the Local Level on Mafia Island?



Working together for a Planet of Plenty



Alltech

PLANETOFPLENTY.COM

#PLANETOFPLENTY

OR
S

Building a Blue Seaweed Economy in Tanzania:

- *Gendered* Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in Climate Adaptation Policy.
- Challenge and Change ill-conceived climate change narratives.
- Provide a seat at the climate change policy negotiation table for local women at the front-lines experiencing these changes and their gendered TEK about them.
- Gender-Balance in Local-Level Political Representation: Climate Adaptation Funds to educate and empower women to run for elected leadership positions at the local level.
- Building a Blue Seaweed Economy: Seaweed processing facilities, swimming lessons for women, support for enhanced development of women's seaweed cooperatives, research on new seaweed farming methods together with women in coastal Tanzania and much more!

Thank you, Ahsante sana!

The Villagers in Mafia Island, Colleagues and Funding from our Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED/NORAD) Grant,



Betsy Beymer-Farris, PhD
Director of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program
University of Kentucky, USA bbeymer-farris@uky.edu