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# South West Mull and Iona Development

## Innovate, Imagine and Collaborate: Aird Fada Seaweed Farm

(Or “how on earth did we end up cultivating kelp?!”)

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## Years in the making

- **We did not start off aiming for a seaweed farm**
- **Originally, the project was about derelict land**
- **Idea grew through freedom to explore options**
- **Seaweed eventually identified as a project in 2016!**

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# Why Seaweed Farming?



***Aim: To create a financially viable, environmentally sustainable and socially beneficial seaweed business.***

- **People and place – sustainable community - local benefits**
- **Environmental benefits – Absorbs Carbon Dioxide and Nitrogen, leaves wild stocks alone**
- **Site at Bendoran – access to the sea, space for necessary infrastructure**
- **Market opportunities – biorefinery, bioplastics, aquaculture, food**

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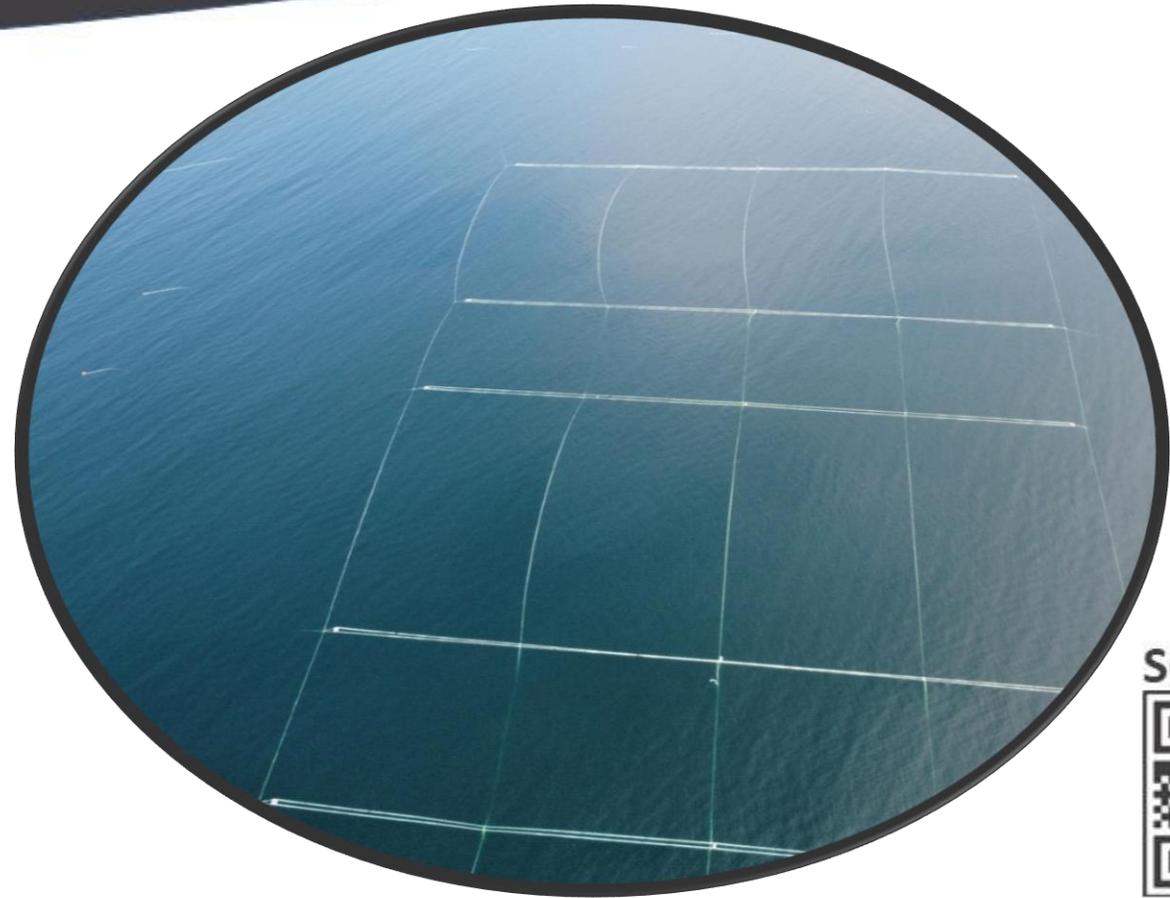




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# How it worked (or should have)...

- 6ha Farm – 3 x 2ha rectangles
- 6km seeded line (Saccharina Latissima)
- Deployed over 2 weeks – 1 day per week
- 6 people, local fishing boat and a rib
- 1 section of site leased to another individual in return for skills and help.
- Fortnightly checks and assessment
- Harvest in April/May



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# Opportunities

- **Opportunities**
- 30 tonnes Sugar Kelp
- Community owned business
- Employment
- Boost to fishing community
- Learning
- **Challenges**
- Change of direction
- Freezing/drying facilities
- Time and Money
- Everything!



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# Lessons?

- **Accept there will be failures**
- **Take time to explore tangential ideas**
- **You will receive lots of interest about sharing learning**
- **Be open**
- **But value your innovation**

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