

Andalusia promotes marine microalgae biorefinery development

The Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IFAPA) and the University of Almeria have signed an agreement to develop a biorefinery of marine microalgae, with the objective of producing sustainable products with high added value as fertilizers, feed additives, among others.

The settlement of this four-year agreement will imply the movement of more than EUR 2 million in scientific and technological resources for innovation in marine aquaculture, said Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development Minister Carmen Ortiz.

The Andalusian minister stressed that with this agreement, which will employ more than twenty people from both institutions, the autonomous government of Andalucía will reinforce the commitment to promote the circular economy within the Andalusian Strategy of Bioeconomics.

Among the benefits of the agreement, Ortiz highlighted the use of bioproducts generated from microalgae that will improve the safety and sustainability of food production, both in agriculture and aquaculture. In addition, the pollution is reduced, as it activates the waste water cleansing process through the elimination of contaminants such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Another advantage of these organisms is that they act by reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

The minister highlighted IFAPA research and knowledge transfer background in the field of aquaculture and in particular in the production of microalgae, especially in the centres of El Toruño (Cadiz), Agua del Pino (Huelva) and La Mojonera (Almeria). She also recalled that Andalusia, with more than 10,600 tonnes of production worth more than EUR 80 million, is one of the most important regions of Spain in aquaculture production.

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