

A MASS TREE PLANTATION CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN KICKED OFF AT UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE FAISALABAD IN COLLABORATION WITH SERENA HOTEL FAISALABAD

Faisalabad: Like other parts of the country and organizations a mass tree plantation campaign has been kicked off at University of Agriculture Faisalabad in collaboration with Serena Hotel Faisalabad where saplings were planted at Laboratory Higher Secondary School for Boys, Senior Professor of the variety Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal Randhawa and General Manager Serena Hotel Faisalabad Mr. Saqib Ahmad along with School administered by three.

Addressing the participants, Senior Professor Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal Randhawa said that being an old and largest university of South Asia, UAF will assist the government organizations in a way to make the country greener place of the globe. He said that UAF is a vibrant community of 40 thousand young students, faculty and staff that will make a big difference in planting thousands of saplings on the canal banks throughout the country. He held that during the recent months, UAF experts have successfully planted one million moringa trees across the country.

Dr. Randhawa described 2.5 percent forest out of the country a negligible figure and vowed to raise the forest net area global level in order to fight the global warming and other challenges posed by climate change. He said that with 100 million trees of KP trees a successful story recognized at national and international level. He emphasized that monitoring of plants is very important with plantation. He urged the youth and University community to collectively plant trees for creating awareness about benefits of forests and to increase forest cover in big cities of the country. The focus would be to plant species according to area and weather conditions. He said that in a bid to commemorate the sacrifices of the brave soldiers



who laid down their lives for the country, on the eve of 6th September, the variety of trees planted on the campus of the university. Global Chairman of Moringa, Prof. Dr. Shahzad Majid Bhatti said that his team has distributed 1.6 million moringa trees across the country and vowed to gear up the government campaign with the help of thousands of volunteers. He held that his team is in close collaboration with State Chemical and would be able to use its network in planting thousands moringa saplings.

Principal Officer Schools Prof. Dr. Khalid ur Rehman, PO Public Relations Prof. Dr. Iqbal Anif, Manager Marketing Serena Hotel Faisalabad Mr. Muhammad Yaseen, School Principal Saadullah Saif were also present on the occasion.

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TRAINING OF DRUG TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS BASED ON UNIVERSAL TREATMENT CURRICULUM KICKS OFF

Lahore: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) country office Pakistan in collaboration with Ministry of Narcotics Control Government of Pakistan launched a global training programme in Pakistan for the drug treatment professionals at Universal Treatment Curriculum with support of the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) here on Tuesday at Anar Hotel Lahore.

The main theme of this training is to train 100 drug dependence treatment practitioners on the Basic Level Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC) curricula 1-8, including 4A and 4B to have a cadre of 44 Pakistan National Trainers on Basic Level UTC (1-8) and to support credentialing by ICCE through Training of Trainers (ToT). The current 2-year project was supported by the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

The training would be completed by January 2019 and followed up by a refresher course leading to certification to 'International certified addiction professional' (ICAP).

The successful candidates would be able to attend ToT, to increase and strengthen the services on drug dependence treatment in the country.

Around 75 drug treatment professionals from public and private sectors from all provinces of Pakistan and Anar Jinnah Kashmir attended the training.

The participants were of a diverse workforce, various professions ranging from doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers who are in the field and working for more than two years at various drug treatment centers in Pakistan.

The trainers for the training were International Certified Addiction for Professionals (ICAP) certified professionals (Doctors, psychologists and Sociologists) working in Pakistan in different sectors: government and private sectors.

Talking to Daily The Business, Chief Guest, Section Officer Ministry of Narcotics Control Hassan Abdullah said that the goal of the



training series is to reduce the significant health, social, and economic problems associated with substance use disorders (SUDs). Dr. Fareeha Anwar and Rashida Niaz from UNODC informed that the training has nine curricula, and at the moment we are starting with the first two.

The training has been launched simultaneously in Lahore and Karachi on August 27th to 29th whereas, total duration of the course is 40 days.

Earlier, this program was started in 2010, which was carried out in cooperation with the INL. It has supported the development of the global training series appropriate for the certification of addiction professionals in the South Asia Region for building international treatment capacity through training professionals using, and expanding the global treatment workforce.

The training prepares counselors and other health providers for professional certification at the entry level, by providing the latest information about SUDs and their treatment.

Putting science into practice, with a special focus on capacity building for the delivery of evidence-based drug dependence treatment and care services in Pakistan through the implementation of the Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC) training strategy, UNODC will conduct a periodic round of ToT using a train drug dependence treatment practitioners at the national level on the Basic Level UTC courses 1-8, including 4A.

Currently, Pakistan has approved 25 National Trainers trained on Basic Level UTC (1-8) and 19 treatment practitioners in the country credentialing internationally.

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TREE PLANTATION CEREMONY AT UAF

Faisalabad: It is need of the hour to boost up plantation area to cope with climate changes and environmental issues. The government's initiatives of massive plantation will open up new avenue of development to address the issues at national level.

It was said by speakers at tree plantation ceremony arranged at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, CPO, Faisalabad Asif Ali Khan along with UAF senior most professor Dr. Zafar Iqbal Randhawa, Dr. Shahzad Bhatti, Co-Chief of Examination Dept. of UAF and Chief of Agriculture, Faisalabad.

Asif Ali Khan said trees are essential part of healthy environment for a better life. He urged the society to play their active role



were due to agriculture. Dr. Zafar Iqbal Randhawa said that we have to start the mass plantation, the bank of canal lush green. He said that people with the rural background can recall millions of trees at the bank of canal. But now the situation has changed. He also praised initiative of government for making the country greener. He said that UAF would like to be a part of this nation building move for actual contribution being a community of more than 40,000 people. UAF was producing skilled manpower. It is a lush green area and we are making it more greenish.

Dr. Shahzad Bhatti said if we would not pay the attention to environment, the issue of climate changes will worsen in 10 years to come.

He also added, "the UAF is the greenish campus. He said that there were numerous benefits of planting trees, from health to environmental impact, economic and even psychological effects. He said that they had done lot of the work on the savings that is a miracle plant and now due to their effort it is being planted massively.

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LIVESTOCK MEDICINES SEIZED FROM QUACK'S CLINIC

Multan: A team on Friday recovered from a quack's clinic veterinary medicines and injections being used to treat people.

A task force constituted by Deputy Commissioner Muzaffar Riaz Malik in a crackdown raided a clinic of Ehsan Haider on Vehari Road and recovered medicines and injections that were used for the treatment of people through the so-called 'miraculous' treatment for livestock.

Assistant Commissioner City Agha Zahoor Abbas Sherazi, who heads the task force, said Ehsan Haider turned out to be a quack and had been arrested and a case

registered against him by the Special Mail police. He said the stock of medicines and injections had been seized and the clinic sealed under the Punjab Drug Act.

"The elements playing with the lives of people will not be spared," he said. The DC continued to raid stock of the clinic level to take action against the quack. Assistant commissioner said he will file the case against DC. Muzaffar said that under the drug act, the task force would be situated to raid the clinics and arrest the suppliers. In another directive, the DC has asked his subordinates to take action against the parents of the children who are refusing the health staff to administer the polio vaccine to their children. He said action would be taken against the parents if they still refuse vaccination to their children.

He made Deputy District Health Officer of Vehari Ghulam Asif an officer on special duty over the recovery operation. PROTECTIVE A number of fully-armed employees of Shaheed Shafiq Hospital proceeded against their removal outside the health facility on Friday.

The hospital administration removed more than 50 employees who had been working since 2017. The protesters said they were denied their wages for July and August.

Later, a meeting between the representatives of the protesters and Health Department Authority Chief Executive Officer Dr. Muhammad Abbas was held. The CEO claimed that the department is ready to pay the wages as decided and the workers would be paid the wages.

Dr. Abbas said DHO that recommendations for the regularization of those employees would be forwarded to the higher authorities.

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DATA TAKES THE HUNCH OUT OF POULTRY PRODUCTION

How do we exploit data we collect on our farms? How do we maintain oversight? Mike Jansen and Wim Polman from PoultryPlan have developed a clever software suite to help poultry integrations overcome the gap between hunch and putting data to work.

In the interconnected world of today we collect an unimaginable amount of data from our farms. In the poultry industry, this data is often not used to its full potential. There was a time when poultry farmers were dependent on roughly estimating a chicken's feed and water intake when the bottom of the granular feeder came into sight. The dissemination of this data was slow and did not go beyond pure guesswork, and integrated operations sent data by mail or fax. This is now a thing of the past. We are living in the data era. More data than ever before is being collected in the poultry sector. This unimaginable amount of data is helping farmers to make better decisions.



It is astonishing how many some very large companies still work with Excel sheets. Spreadsheets and other companies that send their production data in Excel sheets back and forth, never knowing whether or not you are working in the latest version. This still happens. Who knows how much money is lost due to this. More accurate and a smart tool offer timely opportunities for intervention and for adjusting operations, with better margins as a result. A smart tool such as PoultryPlan simplifies this task. It enables you to manage on the basis of facts and trends, directly tackle any issues and make smart decisions faster. Oversight, provides certainty and consequently calm.

Necessary data integration
 Although PoultryPlan was developed by market leader Top Health N.V. over a course of more than ten years. As an answer to market demands it was decided to bring PoultryPlan into the international market in order to help other integrations grow. According to Mr Jansen, the necessity to use data in your (own) integration is undeniable. According to the UN's progress, the global population will reach 9.7 billion people by 2050. Due to this, the demand for high-quality protein such as eggs and poultry is increasing enormously. The requirements that poultry farms and chain integrations must meet are becoming increasingly stringent. This has created a mindset that one needs to be able to manage our farms or integration on the basis of reason rather than emotion. That enables us to exploit and analyze data and pass it on to the next link. This is what will help us advance as a global poultry track. In the end, everyone in the sector has the same ultimate goal in mind: better, more sustainable, healthier and safer production with less loss."

BIRD FLU SEASON FAST APPROACHING

An outbreak of avian influenza on a Russian poultry farm has left producers across Europe looking nervously towards the east as winter in the Northern Hemisphere approaches.

Authorities confirmed a site housing almost 500,000 birds in the Kostroma region in north western Russia was infected with H5N2 highly pathogenic avian influenza. The virus belongs to the Asia lineage of H5 high path strain that has been in outbreaks across Asia, Africa and Europe since 2005.

In follow-up outbreaks of H5 avian influenza in several regions of western Russia.

supported by three migration flyways, one of which brings birds into Europe. Whatever the source, it is important at this time of year to review biosecurity on farms, and considering the risk points and vulnerabilities that your poultry business may have. Last year was a relatively quiet year for European producers when it comes to avian influenza, but that's no reason to suggest this one won't be. It's already high inflation, it has also benefited some exporters.

"It is good for us to have the exchange rate we have to day. It helps us work in all types of exports and in all types of markets," Raventosa said.

"The value in dollars (exporters) pay per kilo of cattle dropped considerably. In December, it was between \$5.20 and \$3.30 per kilo, and today it is at \$2.70," commented Victor Tociola said.

Thanks to the decreasing dollar cost of Argentina's cattle, Tociola expects the country's beef exports to finish the year at 470,000 tonnes. Reuters

ARGENTINA'S BEEF EXPORTS TO DOUBLE ON HIGH CHINESE DEMAND

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina's beef exports could double in 2018 for a total of \$1.8 billion thanks to increased Chinese demand and a sharp devaluation of the peso currency, according to analysts and industry experts.

Analysts expect shipments to total a minimum of 400,000 tonnes, the largest for Argentina's beef industry in the last nine years, indicating the sector is strengthening despite a financial crisis that has bedeviled President Mauricio Macri's government.

Regulations imposed by former President Cristina Fernandez in 2007 at 2015 reignited exports of

beef, a product many Argentinians see as part of their national identity.

According to data provided by sectoral chambers and one analyst, Argentine beef exports could end the year between 400,000 and 470,000 tonnes. That is well above the 200,000 tonnes sold last year, official data shows.

"As a regional leader, the Chinese market is what determined the substantial increase in volume," Mario Raventosa, president of the Consortium of Argentine Beef Exporters, told Reuters. The consortium expects the country to ship 410,000 tonnes of the meat for \$1.8 billion this year.

Other migratory paths could see farms across northern Europe at risk. The size of this latest outbreak is supported by three migration flyways, one of which brings birds into Europe. Whatever the source, it is important at this time of year to review biosecurity on farms, and considering the risk points and vulnerabilities that your poultry business may have. Last year was a relatively quiet year for European producers when it comes to avian influenza, but that's no reason to suggest this one won't be. It's already high inflation, it has also benefited some exporters.

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HIDES RATES PLUNGE AFTER SLOW RESPONSE FROM TANNERIES

KOPRAY: The prices of hides have plunged by 80 to 90 per cent due to very slow response by the tanneries, thus causing heavy losses to the people associated with the business.

The businessmen have not yet transported the hides to tanneries in Kanur in the hope that the prices may rise to some extent and have dumped them in their warehouses at a loss.

The tanneries and welfare organisations, which collected hides once a year to sell them to pay salaries and run the madrassas, have also been affected by the decline in hides prices.

The caretaker of a tannery said earlier when the business was at its peak they sold domestic hides for more than \$51 million but now the same number of hides missed only Rs20,000.

One Gulzar, who deals with hides in the chicken market, told Dawn that the buffalo hides which was priced at Rs4,000 to Rs5,000 in 2010 came down sharply to Rs2,500 in 2015, but during the last two years it hit the



lowest price of Rs500 per piece, thus completely ruining his business.

Gulzar said the government had done nothing to save their business. He said that earlier the damaged hide could also fetch half the rate but now it was disposed of because tanneries did not buy them. These profit margins had come down to Rs10 from Rs50 per hide, he maintained.

Gulzar said they had been told by the tannery owners that since the cheap artificial leather from China had occupied the market which was much cheaper than the original product, they were

E-COLI INFECTION IN HUMANS LINKED TO POULTRY

Research published this week has found that a strain of *Escherichia coli* (E.Coli) found in retail chicken and turkey products could be causing a wide range of infections in humans.

The study, published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, is the first to show that the *E. coli* found in fresh poultry products can be passed to people, leading to bladder infections and other serious conditions.



Poultry products are not currently routinely tested for the kind of E.coli strains that cause UTIs, but the findings underscore the importance of cooking poultry thoroughly and handling it carefully in the kitchen.

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So, they studied the genomes of the *E. coli* cells and discovered that almost all of the *E. coli* ST131 in the poultry products belonged to a particular strain called ST131-H22 and carried

INSECTS: 3 HEALTHY COMPOUNDS FOR ANIMAL FEED

Insects are promising feedstuffs for animal feeds as they contain not only valuable nutrients but also particular compounds that seem to be able to modulate animal microbiota and to optimise animal health. Here we discuss what they are.

These healthy compounds are discussed in a new paper published in the *Journal of Insects in Food and Feed*. In this editorial, the authors discuss the effect of chitin, lauric acid, and anti-microbial peptides provided by insects. These compounds can be beneficial for food producing animals and have potential to help in reducing the need for antibiotics for example.



In pigs and broilers anti-microbial peptides improve growth performance, promote nutrient digestibility and gut health, positively alter intestinal microbiota, and enhance immune function.

The first healthy compound of insects is chitin. Chitin is a component of the exoskeleton of crustaceans and insects. Chitin and chitin derivatives can stimulate immune system cells. Feeding shrimp chitin to broilers for example has been shown to inhibit the growth of the foodborne pathogens *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella* in the intestine. In other trials, chitin fed broiler chickens resulted in a reduction in body fat and possibly the production of lauric acid. This is due to the hypolipidemic and hypocholesterolaemic properties of chitin. Trials in laying hens that were fed about 100g per day of chitin provided by dietary black soldier fly larval meal inclusion showed enhanced immune response and a better disease resistance. In fish, research showed chitin is able to reduce pathogen growth by enhancing the diversity of beneficial intestinal microbiota with positive effects on performance and health.

The second beneficial component of insect is lauric acid. Lauric acid is known to have profound antiviral and antibacterial activity. Black soldier flies are rich in fat, with levels ranging between 15% and 40% on dry matter basis. Notably, the fatty acid profile of the prepupae is high in the medium-chain fatty acid lauric acid (C12:0). The fat of prepupae reared on organic waste appears with high amounts of starch content up to 60% lauric acid. Recently, an *in vitro* trial showed that black soldier fly prepupae fat (0.5g C12:0/100 ml) suppressed growth of *Salmonella* in a dose-dependent manner. In other trials, dietary black soldier fly larval meal inclusion showed enhanced immune response and a better disease resistance. In fish, research showed chitin is able to reduce pathogen growth by enhancing the diversity of beneficial intestinal microbiota with positive effects on performance and health.

AGRICULTURAL POLLUTANTS WORSEN WATER CRISIS IN SINDH

F.H. MUGHAL

AGRICULTURAL pollutants pose a major threat to the surface water, rivers and the health of the people living in Sindh.

Almost all surface water bodies in Sindh, the Phleئي Canal, Kati Bahar Feeder, Pinyari Canal, Nara Canal, Rohar Canal, Rice Canal, Ghokri Feeder, Dado Canal and Pat Feeder get contaminated with pollutants.

The Phleئي Canal and Kati Bahar Feeder are further affected by the discharge of industrial and municipal wastewater. The canal network system in Sindh is surrounded by land used for agriculture. The discharge or overflow from these lands flows directly into surface water bodies.

This has worsened the water crisis by leading to deterioration in water quality, thus reducing the volume of water that can be used. Agricultural pollutants typically comprise sediments, nutrients, pesticides, nitrates, phosphorus and heavy metals.

Heavy metals such as cadmium, cobalt, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, iron and manganese are found in a number of commercial mineral fertilisers, industrial sludge, animal feed additives, and in some pesticides, herbicides and fungicides.

Pollutants contain dangerous heavy metals such as cadmium, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, and iron, which require costly advanced water treatment systems not available in Sindh.

The problem with heavy metals is that they require costly advanced water treatment systems (ultrafiltration, precipitation, biological oxidation, activated carbon, ozonation and ion exchange), which are not available in the water treatment plants in Sindh.

As a result, these pollutants are able to pass through the water treatment systems, ending up in household water storage systems. Drinking water contaminated by heavy metals leads to serious health problems. In infants it can cause methemoglobinemia or blue-baby syndrome, which can be fatal.



for buildings. The Water Act aims to stop dumping of waste into streams.

The Federal Fisheries Act has broad powers to provide citizens whose work results in harmful alteration or degradation of fish habitat. The Fisheries Control Act Regulations exempt farm operators from certification, because of potential repercussions when operating on their privately owned or leased land, and when using common agricultural pesticides.

The Sindh agricultural department's extension wing can implement simple measures in coordination with agriculturalists to control the flow of agricultural pollutants into the surface waters.

Some of these measures include: establishing stream bank buffer strips, preventing livestock from going into streams by placing fences around streams and constructing facilities to store manure. Furthermore, they can introduce water minimisation practices to prevent pollution at the source, train field staff and conduct public awareness programmes for agriculturalists.

Soil erosion can be curbed by adopting minimum tillage operations, covering light-textured cultivated soils to prevent flow of sediment into streams, and setting up wetland treatment systems. If man-ure is excessive, if man-ure are constructed they can help pollutants bypass streams and collect in evaporative ponds.

The writer has a master's in environmental engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok. Published in Dawn, The Business and Finance Weekly.

AGRI TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF PAKISTAN

Agri tourism is growing and Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), a major aquaculture species and the focus of our current research, is predicted to be one of the 2 fastest growing aquaculture products in the next decade and a key driver of US and global consumer demand for farmed fish. Sustainable expansion of aquaculture, among other things, necessitates finding alternatives to fishmeal and fish oil because of environmental, food security, and financial drawbacks of these ingredients. Alternative ingredients are for example insect meal or microalgae meal.

Microalgae: Several advantages

Marine microalgae show promise as alternative aquaculture ingredients that can improve environmental sustainability and human health.

DELAVAL INTRODUCES NEW ROBOTIC FEED PUSHER

The new robotic feed pusher from DeLaval remains and repositions feed onto the feed table. This new approach increases feed intake, reduces feed waste and helps farmers to use the time saved, on the jobs that make a difference to the farm.

DeLaval OptiDuo makes sure cows always have access to refreshed feed. Its technology allows remaining feed before moving it onto the feeding table. With its twin-rotated rotating auger and adaptive drive function, all kinds of feed are repositioned onto the feeding table filling any gaps and ensuring that the strands of roughage remain intact. This means that low or underfed cows are not pushed to empty positions, reducing the competitive and stress at the feeding table.



Trevor DeVise, Professor and Dairy Research Chair at Utah State University, says the new feed pusher will help farmers to use the time saved, on the jobs that make a difference to the farm.

Handling of different types of feed

"Technology such as this has the potential to ensure that dairy cows have continuous access to a well-mixed diet. This should not only help to ensure maximal dry matter intake, but also help minimise feed sorting, and allow cows to use their time more efficiently. This leaves more time for lying down and ruminating," says Dr Trevor DeVise, Professor and Dairy Research Chair at Utah State University, who says the new feed pusher will help farmers to use the time saved, on the jobs that make a difference to the farm.

The new feed pusher has the option to add a concentrate dispenser. It can also automatically handle different amounts of feed as well as several feed types, including any kind of total mix ratio (TMR), straw, hay or fresh grass.

Additionally, the feed pusher can be used in a wide range of situations, including barns with 3% slopes and different width alleys, as well as on farms with multiple barns.

Simple maintenance

There are few parts that need to be changed, with no requirement for greasing. It is also available with DeLaval InService™ programme, a solution where service, consultation, advisory and everything in between is available. The new feed pusher is available in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. America, Asia and Oceania markets will follow shortly.

SUSTAINABLE MICROALGAE FEEDS FOR NILE TILAPIA

To address the environmental sustainability concerns regarding aquafeed, a US team has seen the effectiveness of replacing fishmeal and fish oil with different types of marine microalgae in Nile tilapia.

Aquaculture is growing and Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), a major aquaculture species and the focus of our current research, is predicted to be one of the 2 fastest growing aquaculture products in the next decade and a key driver of US and global consumer demand for farmed fish. Sustainable expansion of aquaculture, among other things, necessitates finding alternatives to fishmeal and fish oil because of environmental, food security, and financial drawbacks of these ingredients. Alternative ingredients are for example insect meal or microalgae meal.

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Developing highly digestible algal ingredients will both improve feed conversion ratios and reduce nutrient loads in fish culture effluents, while also helping drive algae-based aquafeeds towards cost-competitiveness with conventional feed.

growth and quality. The researchers used *N. oculata* dried whole cells and *N. oculata* co-product, followed by an 84-day nutritional feeding experiment with *N. oculata* co-product. The study's findings show promise in replacing conventional protein ingredients in tilapia feeds. The results demonstrated that the co-product had higher protein content than the whole cells but had lower digestibility than whole cells. The co-product showed the highest digestibility of lysine, an essential amino acid that is often deficient in terrestrial crop-based aquafeeds ingredients, as well as the highest eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) digestibility.

Enhancing nutrient digestibility

Based on these results, the US team concludes that

microalgae based diets are currently in the preliminary development stage for aquafeeds. Achieving wide use of such a nutrient dense *N. oculata* co-product in fish feeds requires researchers to find ways to enhance nutrient digestibility. Developing highly digestible algal ingredients will both improve feed conversion ratios and reduce nutrient loads in fish culture effluents, while also helping drive algae-based aquafeeds towards cost-competitiveness with conventional feed. Towards this goal, the researchers are now focusing on whether the inclusion of 1 or more non-starch polysaccharide and protease enzymes in *N. oculata* co-product diet enhances nutrient digestibility and retention and growth and reduces effluent nutrient loading in Nile tilapia.

