



# NEWSLETTER 12

*Microalgae in the agri-food  
sector*



## UP TO NOW

Last run at the VIPI demo site was done at the end of October 2020, when lower temperatures required adaptation of the protocols used in Summer. Microalgal inoculum adapted to raw waste water was used, in order to compare treatment efficiency with unadapted inoculum used before. Algal biomass harvested in Summer and Autumn is being analysed for its properties in terms of carbohydrates and fat content. Due to the winter conditions in November 2020, demo has been temporarily closed down, since snow and ice is preventing the ponds from operation.



In the market analysis and business plan, the key points that may impede the commercialisation of the treatment plant and the by-products obtained are being studied.

### Key impediments to commercialization of ALGAECAN

Absence of clear regulatory framework for algae and algae-based products – European standards are underway
Proof in other environmental conditions and scale
Process integration and refinement – Adjustment of current wastewater treatment infrastructure
Requirement for land near facilities, depending on the algae production scale
Undeveloped market and supply chain for algae biomass
Prices of substitutes (fertilizers and animal feed)
Lack of financing
Risk awareness from water industry and other stakeholders – Hesitant to invest in pilot projects and test facilities
Inertia of existing facilities / utilities
Mindset: Treatment instead of resource recovery and revenue generation
Training and skills shortages in industry
Public perception



The LIFE ALGAECAN project has continued its dissemination work with online presentations.

CARTIF presented the project at the EABA technical webinar: "Algae Biofertilizer and Biostimulant" on 7th October and in several Spanish conferences of the Interreg INBEC Project during the month of October.

ALGEN team participated in the AlgeEurope conference 2020 from 1st to 4th December, where LIFE ALGAECAN was presented as video poster on the website.



## THE NEXT...

Operation of the plant will be resumed in the spring with the improvement of the weather and reports will be made on the results obtained and the feasibility of the system with the type of residual water and microalgae used in Slovenia.

**We want to get more followers!** Whether you represent a facility which performs: Treatment and processing of animal and/or vegetable materials in food and/or drink production, Fertilisers production or Animal feeding production, LIFE ALGAECAN invites you to participate as an observer in the different stages of the project. To do so, simply complete the questionnaire on our website:

[www.lifealgaecan.eu](http://www.lifealgaecan.eu)



YOUTUBE video plant  
LIFE ALGAECAN

