



CASE STUDY

## Seaweed providing livelihoods for women and exports in Zanzibar



In Zanzibar, Tanzania, seaweed farming is a major industry, employing over 25,000 farmers (80% of whom are women) and ranking as the third-largest export. Most of the seaweed is used in products such as toothpaste, ice cream, and cosmetics. Although demand is high, significant sustainability challenges remain, including global warming, coastal development impacts, limited aquaculture knowledge, and poor seed stock. Targeted training has been implemented to equip farmers with co-developed best management practices to improve seaweed farming sustainability. The program successfully trained hundreds of local farmers, resulting in a 20% reduction in the use of mangroves for stakes, a 44% reduction in plastic rope disposal at sea, and an additional 528 coastal areas under improved management. This initiative demonstrates how seaweed farming can be conducted sustainably and has played a key role in mainstreaming gender into coastal and marine management.

### References/Source:

<https://reefresilience.org/case-studies/tanzania-aquaculture/>