



R&D Specialist

Start Date: July/August 2023

Application Deadline: 30 / 05 / 2023

Location: Lüderitz, Namibia

ABOUT KELP BLUE

Join our mission at Kelp Blue to restore balance to the planet by cultivating and processing giant kelp. By growing giant kelp of the coast of Lüderitz, we aim to reduce CO₂ levels, increase marine biodiversity, have a positive impact on coastal communities and provide sustainable input materials for many industries. Help us turn this biomass into eco-friendly products, starting with biostimulant in our pilot processing facility in Lüderitz.

ROLE OVERVIEW

We are looking to hire a spectacular multi-faceted new team member. You will help us understand how we can effectively extract valuable compounds from seaweed and how we can optimally valorise them into marketable products, starting with alginates but also looking at fucoidans, pigments, proteins, pulp and more.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Understand the physical, chemical and biological properties of the different valuable compounds in the seaweed to understand their role and potential in different market segments.
- Develop or outsource analytical methods to analyse the different valuable compounds and study their properties.
- Research and develop different extraction methods for specific compounds and research the impact of different extraction, purification and formulation methods on the yields and the properties of the resultant extracts.
- Set-up and manage collaborations with external Research Institutes, Universities and Laboratories to bring more expertise to specific R&D projects.
- Use obtained insights to develop viable new products, that are wanted by the industry, by working closely together with a market development specialist.
- Translate lab developments to pilot scale validation tests.

REQUIREMENTS

- Academic Qualification with a Master's degree in the field of (Bio-) Chemistry or something equivalent.
- Demonstrated experience with designing and conducting experiments and troubleshooting experimental problems.
- Experience with different analytical procedures and machinery like HPLC, spectrophotometry, rheology etc..
- Strong analytical skills.

- Results driven.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced and dynamic environment.
- Independent, innovative and creative thinker that can generate new ideas, methods and technologies.
- Good communication and collaboration skills to be able to effectively work together with external parties as well as other colleagues within production, market development and sales.
- Starting in July/August 2023
- Willingness to travel
- Fulltime

MORE ABOUT KELP BLUE

At Kelp Blue, we're striving to find long-term solutions to help restore marine ecosystems and providing planet friendly products to some of the world's largest industries.

Our goal is to increase ocean biodiversity by growing giant kelp forests at scale, beginning just off the coast of Lüderitz. These giant kelp forests will lock away vast amounts of CO₂, boost marine biodiversity and have an enormously positive social impact on communities through job creation and education. Our company growth will be financed by the harvesting, processing and sale of the kelp canopy into environmentally-friendly products for multiple industries. We start with the development of a biostimulant, which is an organic and sustainable agricultural product, and alginate based products.

We're not a 'business as usual' company. We're here to make a difference.

We're a lean team, we all roll up our sleeves to get the job done, whatever it may be. People who fit well with us are independent thinkers yet team players and people who are results driven. Because some of the things we're trying to do have never been done before, we're looking for people who have a healthy dose of common sense, who are problem solvers by nature and comfortable getting on with tasks in an unstructured environment.

WANT TO APPLY?

If you have a passion for sustainability and like the challenge to understand and develop the markets for our next sustainable alginate based products, we would love to hear from you. Please send your resume and cover letter to: newkelpies@kelp.blue with **R&D specialist** in the subject line.