

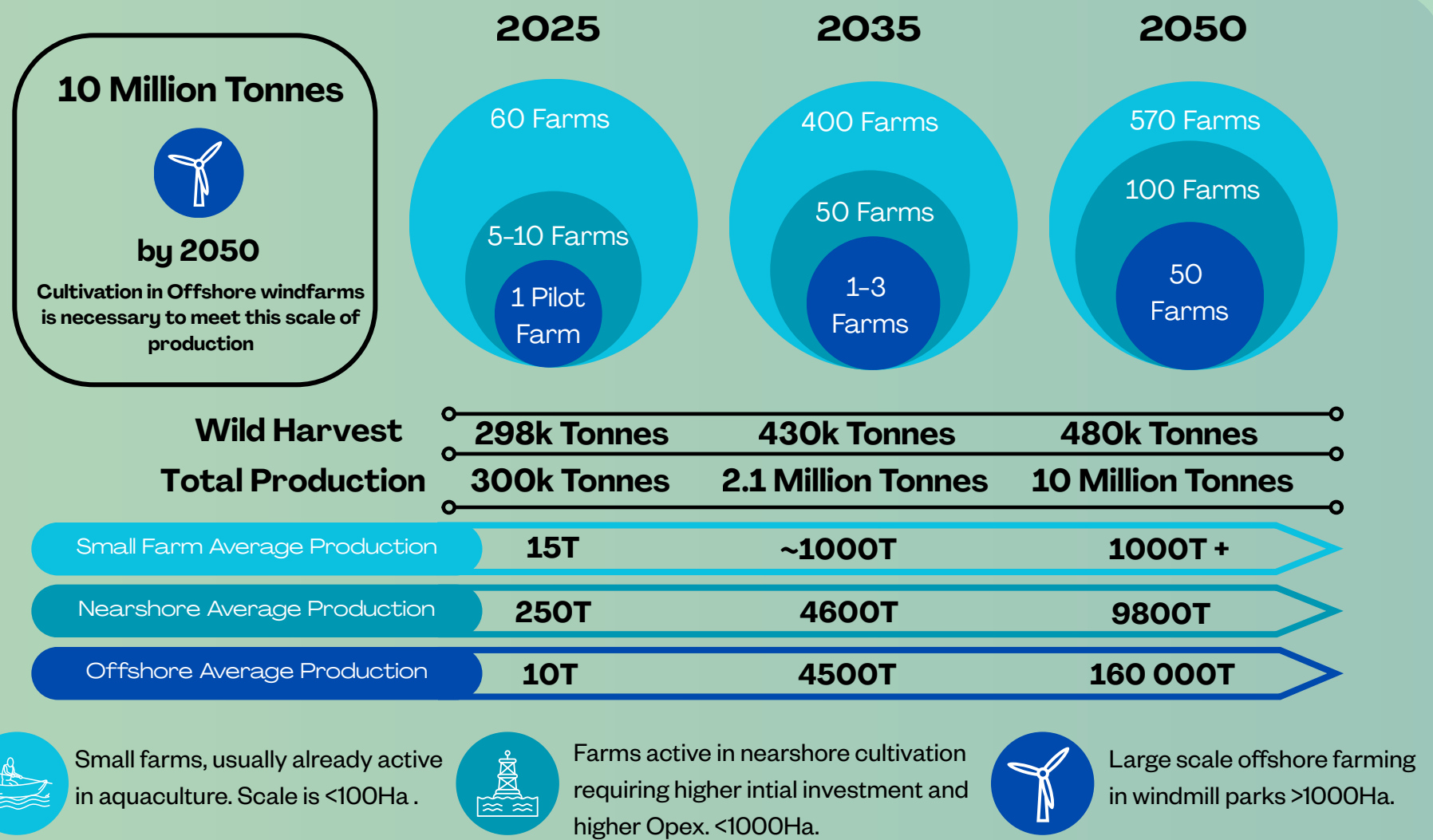


SEAWEED FOR PRODUCTION



AMBITION

The European Seaweed Industry must increase its production of sustainably cultivated seaweed in order to meet future market demand. Current market analysis suggests that by 2050, the demand for wet seaweed will exceed 10 million tonnes, driven by applications in areas such as food, protein, packaging, and biostimulants. This will give Europe control over the supply chain and its resources and will support job growth in novel sectors such as biotechnology and blue economy. Today this target is still far away, but a combination of onshore, nearshore and offshore cultivation, all supported by a realistic growth plan, will help us get there.



The European Seaweed Industry aims to achieve an annual production of 10mln ton-wet seaweed by 2050 to meet market demand for seaweed-based products.

2025 This ambition requires at least 10 mln ton-wet seaweed in 2050 2050

KEY INSIGHTS



Focus on benefits of cultivated seaweed

Cultivation enables scaling, crop homogeneity, predicability and specific quality traits (breeding). Harness these benefits to enable a successful industry.



Learn from experienced EU seaweed players

Use lessons learnt on processing & sales from the existing wild harvest industry.



Production subsidy

Larger scale seaweed farming (high CAPEX) is not yet commercially viable. Long-term production subsidies could be a solution to overcome this hurdle.



Monitor for sustainable scaling

Independent environmental monitoring is key to learning how to scale within ecosystem limits. As an industry, case-building is a condition for scaling.

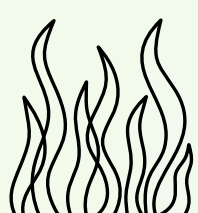


Set ambitions on climate impact

Low carbon or CO2-neutral production is key for the seaweed industry. A timeline for this ambition is to be agreed upon.

RECOMMENDED INDUSTRY ACTION

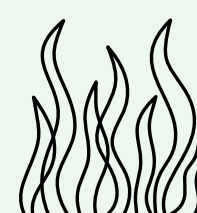
These actions could be followed-up in Joint Industry Projects and/or by research & innovation projects in Europe



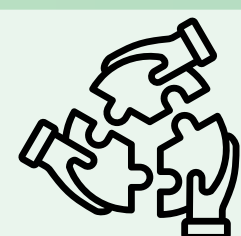
Agree on an overview that links cultivatable seaweed species with specific markets and the quality traits these seaweeds should possess in order to be successful on these markets.



Collective advocacy is needed to obtain government support (e.g. **production subsidy**) to help overcome the price difference between wild-harvested & cultivated seaweeds used as feedstock in the European markets.



Develop and share successful cultivation protocols & farm designs and setup a collaboration programme to **optimize** seeding, harvesting, and pre-processing.



Explore collaborative models in the (horizontal & vertical) supply chain (e.g. joint-venture or cooperative) to enable larger and longer-term offtake contracts.