PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Development investment proposal

WEBSITE CLIENT: WWW.SEATECHENERGY.COM

REGION: ASIA

COUNTRY: INDONESIA

SECTOR: SEAWEED FARMING

SIGNING DATE: 30 DAYS FROM PUBLICATION AT WEBSITE

TOTAL FINANCING: EUR 250,000

FUND: GRANT FUNDING (ORIGINATION FACILITY)

Who is our (prospective) client?

SeatechEnergy is a privately held company based in Hilversum, The Netherlands. Founded in 2015, the company developed patented technologies for the large-scale cultivation and anaerobic digestion of organic material such as seaweed. The company is working on various applications of seaweed including but not limited to agar, protein, animal feed and biofuels. SeatechEnergy is a spin-off company from the Inrada Group which was founded in 1955 and specialized in the design and manufacture of systems and controls for Oil & Gas systems operating in extreme environmental conditions.

What is the intended funding objective (type of activity)?

Development of a final solid investment proposition to establish a commercial seaweed farming project in South Sulawesi (Indonesia) using SeatechEnergy’s developed pod technology and in partnership with the local cooperative.

Why do we fund this project?

The OF DFCD grant funding is needed to de-risk and proof the concept of a large-scale offshore seaweed farm in Indonesia. As it is a new farming method, this has proven to be a barrier to obtain financing.

Environmental and social rationale

Seaweed aquaculture in this region (and other coastal regions) provides an opportunity to increase the adaptive capacity through a more diversified and profitable income source. If
successful, it will also generate indirect economic impacts to the nearby coastal communities. The project will establish a cooperative model of development, which is recognised as a more resilient production system (risk sharing), as highlighted in Indonesia NAP.

As indicated in the OECD Rio Marker Handbook it would fit with

- Sustainable climate-resilient farming methods (adaptation score 2).
- Promoting diversified agricultural production to reduce climate risk (e.g. growing a mix of different crops and different varieties of each crop) (adaptation score 1 or 2).

This seaweed farm will sustainably cultivate Gracilaria, which is a group of warm water seaweeds. Agar is a common food ingredient that is extracted from this seaweed species. Once in fully operational, the Takalar site is expected to produce 65,000 tons of seaweed per annum, create employment for over 500 men and women, sequester 275 tons of CO2 from the ocean per annum, and support the biodiversity of marine life in this area of the coral triangle.

Both the DFCD and SeatechEnergy are positive that this project can contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 13 by promoting climate-resilient, economic growth for the local community