

## **Seamoss Cultivation in the West Indies**

*Allan Smith, 1997*

Forward by:  
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It is a credit to the people of the Caribbean that they can point to the success of the production and use of seamoss as being the result of combining traditional and modern approaches and knowledge. The use of seaweeds for food continues to be popular throughout the region and the combination of growing demand and decreasing natural populations has become a concern from both the economic and conservation perspectives. In acknowledgment of the need to make the harvesting of seaweeds more sustainable, men and women in the coastal communities of St. Lucia have been participating in the development and refinement of seamoss cultivation techniques. The outcome has been the only example of artisanal mariculture in the region that has been successfully adopted by coastal people as a viable occupation.

The cultivation of seamoss involves men and women in science, business, processing and farming. Over the years, experience that has included working on the science of identifying and improving seaweed stocks and obtaining high quality yields after processing has contributed to the development of a practical mechanism for resource management in the region. The people have benefited economically from their approach to the management of this valuable resource, and the environments of the bays have not been placed under any significant stress. The results of cooperation among partners from government agencies, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, the farmers and the processors has been the refinement and improvement of all aspects of seaweed use and production.

The techniques and information provided in this booklet are designed to offer an example of appropriate technology for the region. It is the result of much hard work on the part of all of the partners in the project. The Institute is grateful to all those who supported the work and made the results possible through their contributions. We hope you will find it useful to your efforts to participate in sustainable resource management.

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