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Title:

Harnessing Kelp Farming Led by Indigenous Communities: A Nature-Based Solution for Food Sovereignty and Sustainable Economic Benefits

Abstract:

Kelp farming, spearheaded by indigenous communities, presents a compelling avenue towards addressing food sovereignty, climate change, and sustainable economies. This innovative approach capitalizes on weaving indigenous traditional knowledge and contemporary solutions. By cultivating kelp, coastal communities not only bolster their food security but also mitigate environmental degradation. Kelp forests foster biodiversity, sequester carbon, and improve water quality, thereby enhancing ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change. Partnerships with other commercial kelp cultivation organizations yield synergies between traditional knowledge and cutting-edge scientific approaches to growing seaweed and monitoring its ecological benefits. For example, the use of underwater videos and computer vision analysis of kelp-associated organisms enables fine scale monitoring for economically, ecologically, and culturally important species.

Furthermore, the economic benefits of kelp farming offers a diversified income stream, reducing dependency on single-sector economies vulnerable to market fluctuations. Additionally, kelp-derived products such as biofuels, fertilizers, and animal feed hold promise for sustainable economic growth.

This work underscores the imperative of supporting indigenous-led kelp farming initiatives. Embracing such nature-based solutions is paramount for fostering resilient systems and equitable prosperity. Through collaborative and inclusive policies, we can amplify the potential of kelp farming, paving the way towards a more sustainable and just future.

Please provide a brief one-sentence plain-language summary of your talk for social media promotion:

Indigenous-led kelp farming

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12 minute oral presentation

What is your second choice for the type of presentation you'll give if your first choice is unavailable?:

3 minute speed talk

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Exploring Nature Positive Pathways for Marine Conservation

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