



MICROALGAE BIOMASS AS A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SOURCE
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UNIVERSITY OF LISBON
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
ON SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND SEAS



SESSION III - Microalgae as important sources of bioactive compounds for food and pharmaceutical applications

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SESSION II - Microalgae as important sources of bioactive compounds for food and pharmaceutical applications

SUMMARY

Microalgae as important sources of bioactive compounds for food and pharmaceutical applications

Microalgae are one of the renewable sources for pharmaceutical compounds

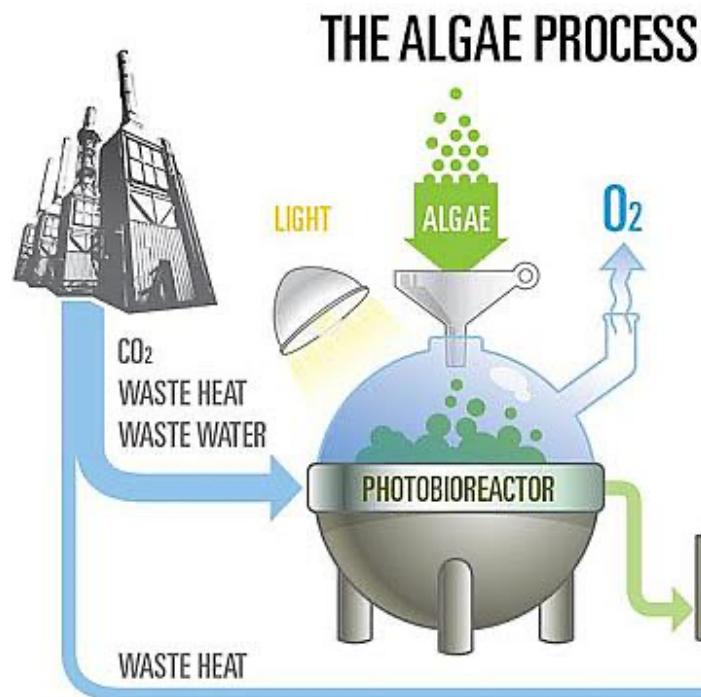
Why the use of microalgae biomass as a food ingredient is really important?

Microalgae as a source of protein and bioactives for food products

Microalgae – a tool for Food Innovation

Major challenges to the incorporation of microalgae in food

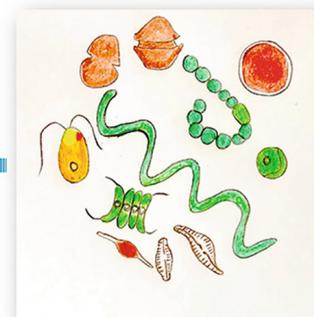
SESSION III - Microalgae as important sources of bioactive compounds for food and pharmaceutical applications



Bioactive compounds

- Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA)
- Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA)
- Sulphated polysaccharides
- Carotenoids
 - Astaxanthin
 - Fucoxanthin
 - β -carotene
 - Lutein
- C-phycocyanin
- Novel metabolites
 - Cyanovirin-N
 - Apratoxin A
 - Trichophycin A
 - Calothrixin A
- Dinotoxins
 - Amphidinolides
 - Karlotoxins
 - Yessotoxin

Microalgae



Bioactivity

- Antibacterial
- Antiviral
- Anticancer
- Immunomodulatory
- Antiobesity
- Antidiabetic
- Anti-hyperlipidaemic
- Antioxidative

Source of bioactive compounds



Microalgae are one of the renewable sources for pharmaceutical compounds

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/cben.201600023>

Cyanobacteria (spirulina) - source for antibiotics and pharmacologically active compounds
A large number of **antibiotic compounds**, many with novel structures, have been isolated and characterised.

Cyanobacteria – production of antiviral and antineoplastic compounds.

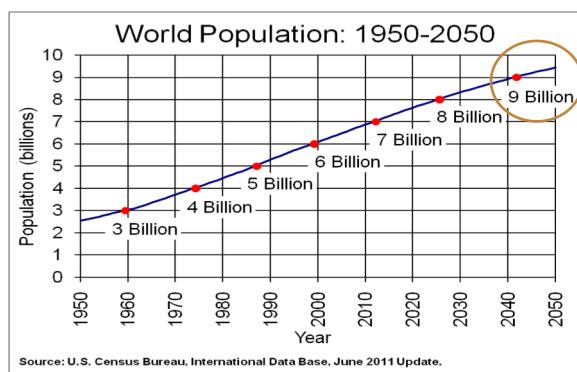
A range of pharmacological activities have also been observed with **extracts of microalgae**, however the active principles are as yet unknown in most cases.

Several of the bioactive compounds may find application in human or veterinary medicine or in agriculture. Others should find application as research tools or as structural models for the development of new drugs. The microalgae are particularly attractive as **natural sources of bioactive molecules** since these algae have the potential to produce these compounds in culture which enables the production of structurally complex molecules which are difficult or impossible to produce by chemical synthesis.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF00003544>

Why the use of microalgae biomass as a food ingredient is really important?

In 2050 there will be 9 billion people on the planet!



Sharp population growth



Resource scarcity

Food in the future?

Thomas Malthus (1798) - At that time he realized that the supply of food did not keep pace with population growth.

In the XXI century, food production is scarce and food prices assume significant increases

FAO estimates the production will have to rise by up to 70%, in order to have food available for all...

Efficiency of agricultural production systems
Scarcity of water resources and arable land
Climate change
Protein shortage



What is the role of microalgae?



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**Climate is changing.
Food and agriculture must too.**

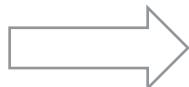


New perspective: Healthy and sustainable food



Microalgae - Food Innovation

UNDER-EXPLOITED RESOURCES



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

valorisation of by-products

Microalgae biomass

Seaweed
other marine resources
(underutilized species used in food)
Insects

Alternative sources of protein



Microalgae - Food Innovation

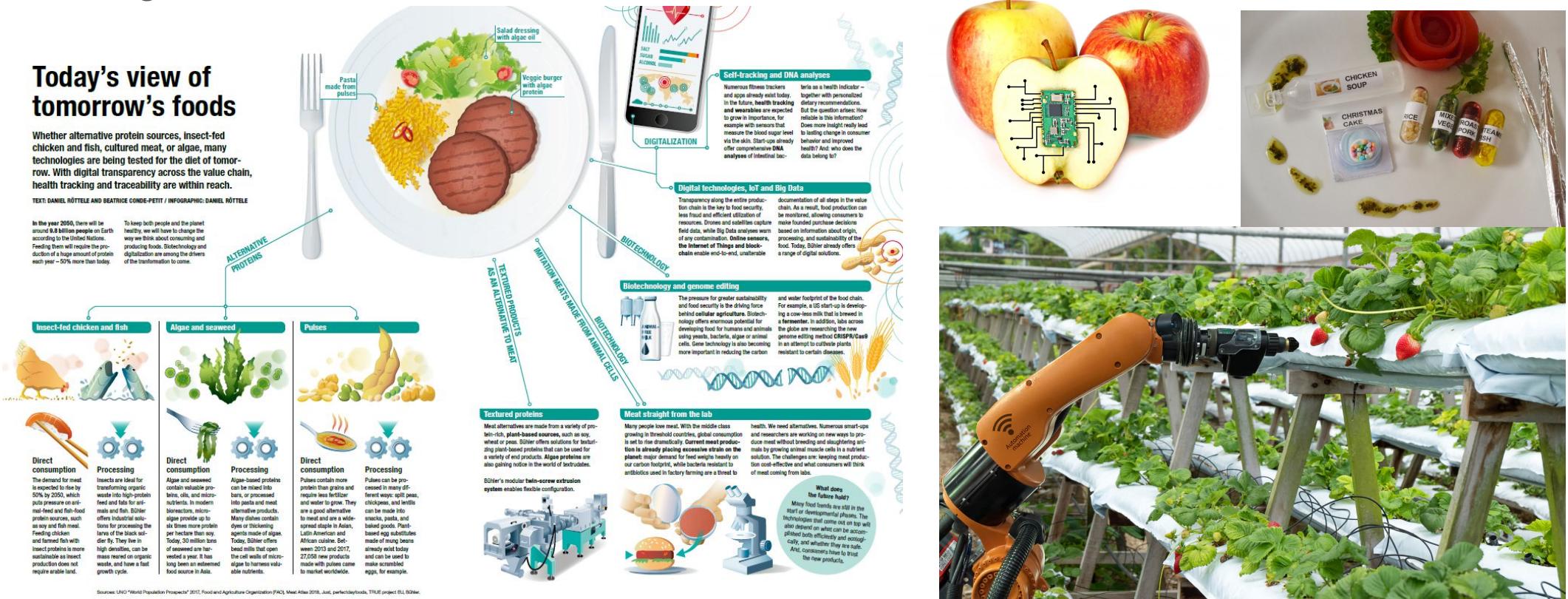
Today's view of tomorrow's foods

Whether alternative protein sources, insect-fed chicken and fish, cultured meat, or algae, many technologies are being tested for the diet of tomorrow. With digital transparency across the value chain, health tracking and traceability are within reach.

TEXT: DANIEL RÖTTEL & BEATRICE CONDE-PETIT / INFOGRAPHIC: DANIEL RÖTTEL

In the year 2050, there will be around 9.8 million people on Earth according to the United Nations. Feeding them will require the production of a huge amount of protein each year - 50% more than today.

To keep both people and the planet healthy, we will have to change the way we think about consuming and producing food. Biotechnology and digitalization are among the drivers of the transformation to come.



Sources: UNO "World Population Prospects" 2017; Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Meat Atlas 2018; Just, perfectfood, TRUE project EU, Bühler.



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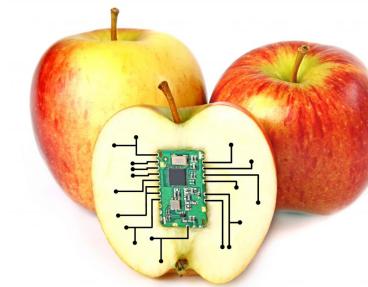


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Major challenges to the incorporation of microalgae in food

MICROALGAE – FOOD FOR FUTURE?

New colours,
New textures
New flavours
Positive impact on health
Protein source
Modelling composition -
production conditions



Technological challenge

Technological limit of incorporation
Sensory limit (consumer)
Overall cost of the product



How to engage the consumers?

Two distinct approaches with different technological and consumer impacts ...

- A) Technological approach – Food engineering
- B) Artistic Approach – Gastronomic science

MICROALGAE – FOOD FOR FUTURE?

The consumption of microalgae is an alternative to the lack of food that is expected for the next years, being an **excellent source of protein and functional ingredients**

The introduction of microalgae into high-consumption foodstuffs and diversified gastronomic productions is a decisive contribution to their **acceptance by consumers**

Microalgae present **varied nutritional profiles**, according to their origin and growth conditions, with different possibilities of incorporation into culinary preparations



Comparison of microalgal biomass profiles as novel functional ingredient for food products

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^c Divisão de Aquacultura e Valorização, Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera, Av. Brasil 1449-006 Lisboa, Portugal

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Bioactive compounds with health impact
+
Complex macromolecules



Impact on physical, nutritional and sensory properties of developed products
Food production costs with microalgae incorporation



Role of regulators in relation to novel foods ...

Spirulina maxima/Arthrospira platensis (cyanobacteria)

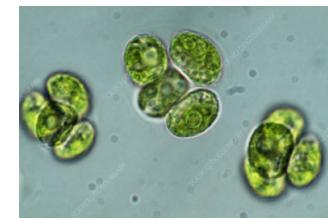
Health benefits - stimulation of the immune system, reduction of cholesterol levels and blood pressure, anti-carcinogenic, detoxifying effect.

Phycocyanin (blue phycobiliprotein): antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, neuroprotective effect...

High protein content ($\approx 65\%$) and balanced amino acid profile

Essential fatty acids (γ -linoleic acid)

High Vitamin B12 and Fe content - vegetarian supplements



Chlorella vulgaris

Health benefits - strengthening of the immune system, detoxifying - stimulates tissue growth and repair - protection against UV radiation; retardation of aging phenomena. Prevention of atherosclerosis, hypercholesterolemia and as an antitumor agent.

High levels of β -1,3-glucan: active immune stimulator, which acts in the elimination of free radicals and as a blood lipid reducer and **vitamin B12**.

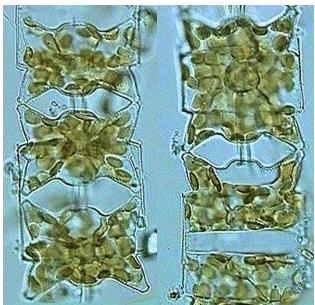
High chlorophyll content



Tetraselmis chuii



Odontella aurita



Flavoured pasta, fish soups, sea food tarts, broth preparations, salt crackers, frozen breaded fish; Incorporation levels range from 0.5% to 1.5%.

Role of regulators in relation to novel foods ...

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2017/2470

of 20 December 2017

establishing the Union list of novel foods in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council on novel foods

(Text with EEA relevance)

(OJ L 351, 30.12.2017, p. 72)

Dried <i>Tetraselmis chuii</i> microalgae	Specified food category	Maximum levels	
	Sauces	20 % or 250mg/day	
	Special salts	1 %	
	Condiment	250 mg/day	
	Food Supplements as defined in Directive 2002/46/EC	250 mg/day	The designation of the novel food on the labelling of the foodstuffs containing it shall be 'Dried microalgae <i>Tetraselmis chuii</i> ' or 'Dried microalgae <i>T. chuii</i> ' Food supplements containing dried microalgae <i>Tetraselmis chuii</i> shall bear the following statement: 'Contains negligible amounts of iodine'

Euglena gracilis



3.12.2020

PT

Jornal Oficial da União Europeia

L 406/29

REGULAMENTO DE EXECUÇÃO (UE) 2020/1820 DA COMISSÃO
de 2 de dezembro de 2020

que autoriza a colocação no mercado de *Euglena gracilis* desidratada como novo alimento ao abrigo do Regulamento (UE) 2015/2283 do Parlamento Europeu e do Conselho e que altera o Regulamento de Execução (UE) 2017/2470 da Comissão

(Texto relevante para efeitos do EEE)



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Another promising microalgae as food ingredients....

Haematococcus pluvialis

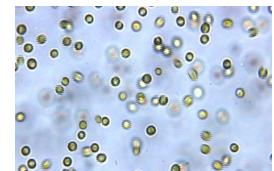
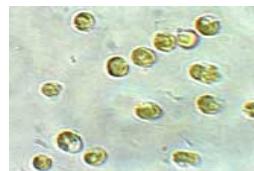


Largest natural source of **astaxanthin** - accumulation capacity of about 0.2-2% dry biomass after carotenogenesis

Carotenoids are accumulated and have an important free radical scavenging effect - a more significant antioxidant effect than β -carotene, vitamin C and vitamin E

The combination of carotenoids confers special **use as antioxidant**, with beneficial effect in the treatment of CNS pathologies

Isochrysis galbana e Diacronema vikianum



Common in European seas, particularly in the North Atlantic and Irish coast.

Important source of PUFA's - EPA (20: 5-3) and DHA (22: 6-3), which may be an alternative to fish oils.

Important sources of sterols: sitosterol and tocopherols - **antioxidants**

The production of these metabolites depends on the growth conditions of the microalga...

Already farmed for the production of aquaculture feeds.

MICROALGAE BIOMASS AS A FOOD INGREDIENT - SUMMARY

Important source of **bioactive compounds** with positive **impact on health** - healthy diet

Sustainable food source

Important **source of protein**

Large-scale controlled production facility - **reasonable costs**

From the technological point of view

Impact of microalgae on the **food structure** (macromolecules and polysaccharides)

Impact of processing levels (different thermal treatments severity) on the **degradation of the bioactive compounds**

Food processing has a determinant impact on **bioaccessibility** and it should be optimised in order to reduce the degradation of the bioactive compounds

From the consumer point of view

BUT...

Colour - colours not common (green bread?)

Flavour - Sea and fish flavour may be relevant

Cost (even)

Sharp increase in microalgae consumption from domestic scale to industrial food production?...



Are the consumers prepared?

What can we do to engage the consumer?



Algal Research 50 (2020) 101998

GLUTEN FREE PRODUCTS

FRADINHO, P., NICCOLAI, A., SOARES, R., RODOLFI, L., BONDI, N., TREDICI, M.R., SOUSA, I., RAYMUNDO, A. (2020). Effect of *Arthrospira platensis* (spirulina) incorporation on the technological and bioactive properties of gluten-free fresh pastas. *Algal Res.*, 48, 101742.



ELSEVIER



Article

Tetraselmis c Ingredient to on Structure,

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Article Microalgae Products:

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Microalgae bior
rheology, textu

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More than 20 years on new food product development incorporating microalgae into different foods for different consumers!



GLUTEN FREE PRODUCTS

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SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

naturererearch



OPEN

Development of new microalgae-based sourdough “crostini”: functional effects of *Arthrospira platensis* (spirulina) addition

Alberto Niccolai¹, Manuel Venturi^{2*}, Viola Galli¹, Niccolò Pini¹, Liliana Rodolfi^{1,3},
Natascia Biondi¹, Massimo D’Ottavio¹, Ana Paula Batista⁴, Anabela Raymundo⁴, Lisa Granchi¹
& Mario R. Tredici¹

Impact of the addition of microalgae on nutritional, technological, sensory, digestibility and bioactivity properties - systematic approach



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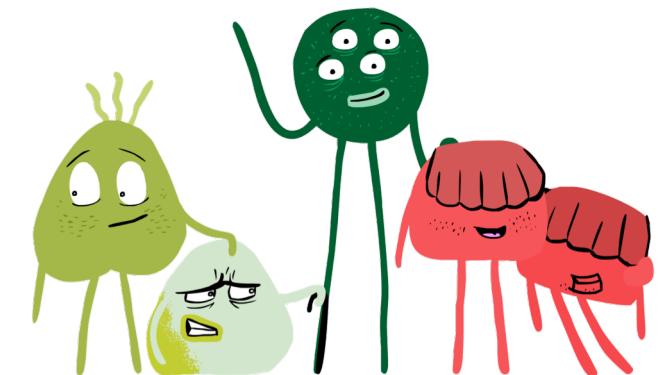
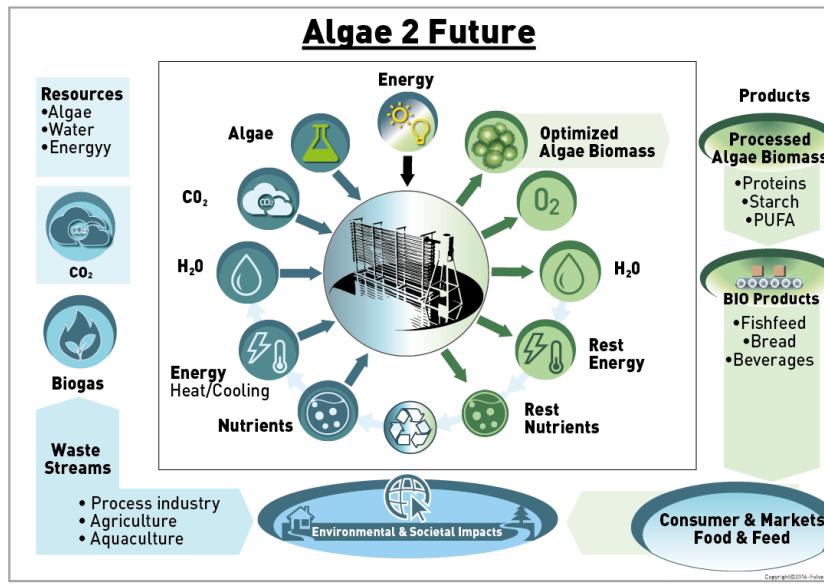
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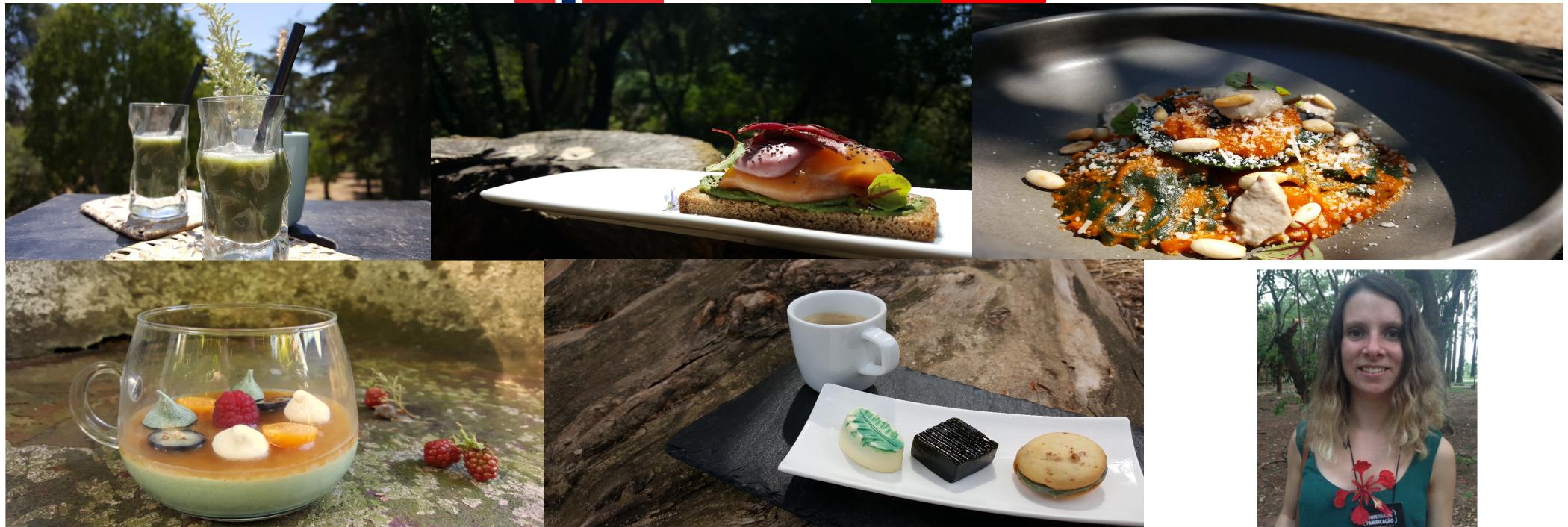
Strategies do engage the consumers...

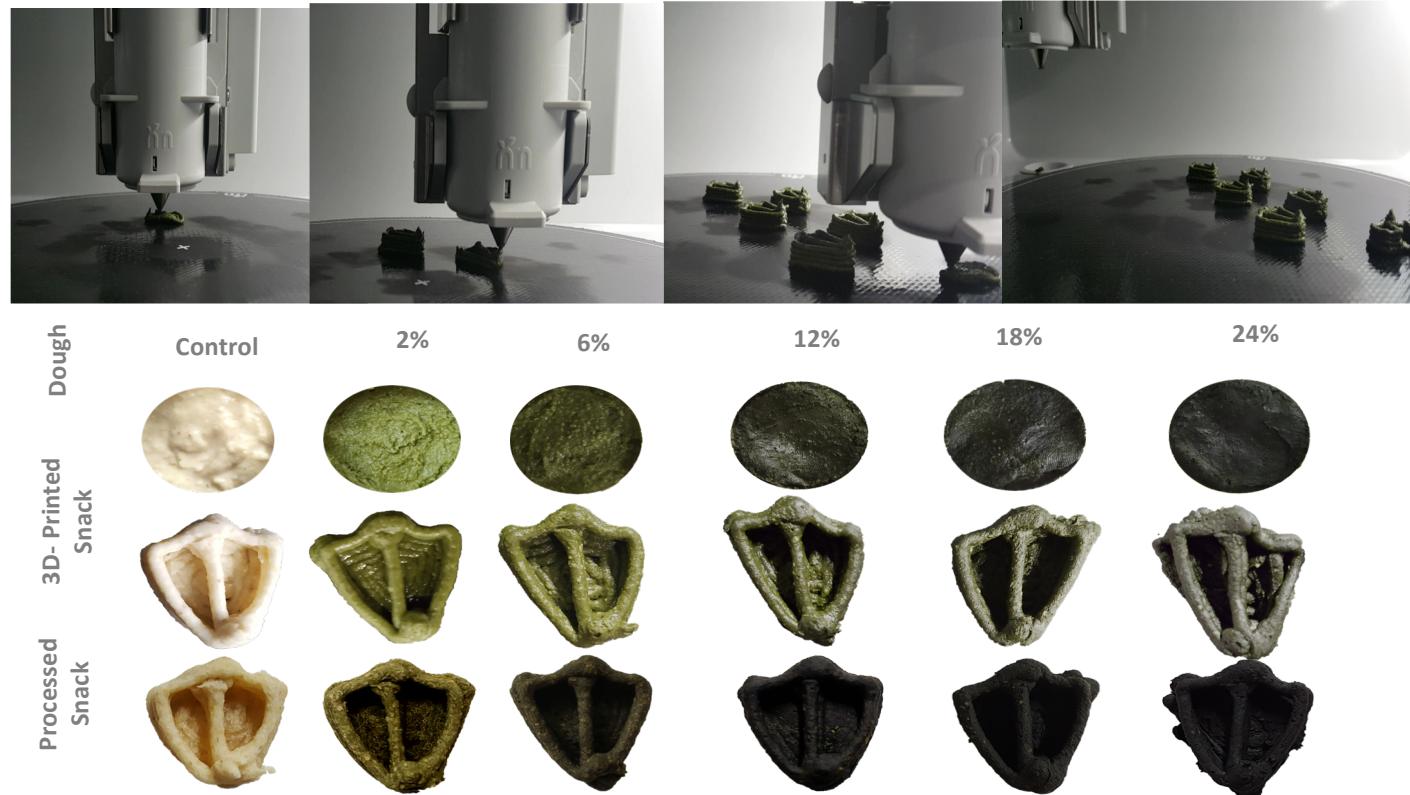


<https://www.thelocal.se/20180329/ikea-develops-new-mealworm-meatballs-and-dogless-hotdogs>

SESSION III - Microalgae as sources of bioactive compounds for food
The role of Gastronomic science to engage the consumers
Food of the world







Massages to take home

Microalgae are rich in bioactive compounds, which make them extremely important for food and pharmaceutical industries.

The use of microalgae as a food ingredient requires consumer engagement.

The use of gastronomic science techniques allows the creation of structures and flavors that are decisive for increasing the acceptance of microalgae in food.



The background of the image is an underwater scene. At the surface, there is a large, partially melted plastic bag and several plastic bottles. Below the surface, a green sea turtle swims gracefully. In the background, a school of small fish swims away. The water is a deep blue, and the overall atmosphere is somber, highlighting the issue of plastic pollution in the ocean.

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