

Paper made out of algae cellulose, a sustainable alternative to conventional industry

LOCATION: Seville

DURATION: 1'35"

SUMMARY: It is a project of the ECOWAL research group from the Pablo de Olavide University in Seville. They use different types of algae to avoid the use highly contaminant products in conventional paper production. The result is a paper with similar characteristics to the one obtained from wood. In addition, these researchers study possible applications of this algae cellulose both in the pharmaceutical and the cosmetics industries.

VTR

ANA MORAL

Responsible for the ECOWAL group

"We have obtained this paper from algae."

A paper apparently identical to conventional, to the one made out of wood, however it comes from algae like these ones. Posidonias, ulvas, cladophoras... Marine plants that are usually removed from beaches and wasted, but this research group from the Pablo de Olavide University in Seville is using them to produce ecological paper.

LOURDES CAMPAÑA

Researcher at the ECOWAL group

"We use waste that comes with tides."

ANA MORAL

Responsible for the ECOWAL group

"There are less chemicals and contaminants than in the traditional chemical industry."

LOURDES CAMPAÑA

Researcher at the ECOWAL group

"Hydrogen Peroxide so everyone understands. It is cheap and non-polluting; that's our main reagent."

That's it, Hydrogen Peroxide. When it contacts algae at 90 centigrade degrees it permits discoloring the raw material, something that requires very corrosive products with wood. Using algae, as this liquid waste isn't toxic, it can be recycled for...

LOURDES CAMPAÑA

Researcher at the ECOWAL group

"Livestock feed, as an additive in bases for sweets, chewing gums and else."

But in this lab they also study other applications for algae cellulose.

ANA MORAL

Responsible for the ECOWAL group

"It is also used in pharmacy, cosmetics, in a lot of creams and gels, etcetera"

LOURDES CAMPAÑA

Researcher at the ECOWAL group

"It is completely innovative, no one has ever worked with this before."

And returning to paper, it is good quality?

ANA MORAL

Responsible for the ECOWAL group

"I could have the same use than the one we give to conventional paper today."

And this is the final result, algae paper, more environmentally friendly and a future possible alternative for industry.

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