

Fertilizers and nutrients for animals created by beer residue and microalgae

LOCATION: El Ejido (Almería)

DURATION: 1'32"

SUMMARY: Researchers from the University of Almería and the Experimental Station Las Palmerillas of the Cajamar Foundation are developing a project to give a second life to the residue that the beer industry produces. With the help of microalgae, they are trying to convert the residue into fertilizers or nutrients to be used for animal feed.

VTR:

It could be the future fuel of our agriculture. No, they won't be irrigated with beer, but Almerian researchers are studying the use of microalgae in converting the liquid residue of the brewing process into animal feed.

FRANCISCO GABRIEL ACIÉN
UAL Researcher

"What we propose is to utilize the microalgae as the system to purify the water as well as extract a benefit from the microalgae's biomass that we generate."

The brewing industry uses barley as the main raw material and generates two types of residue, of which the latter is the object of research: solids, which are used as animal feed, and liquids, rich in organic material such as nitrogen and phosphorus.

FRANCISCO GABRIEL ACIÉN
UAL Researcher

"The brewing industry can maybe produce 2,000-3,000 cubic meters per day and this water contains approximately a gram, gram and a half, for every liter of contaminants."

A quantity equivalent to an Olympic size pool. This will transform into microalgae biomass and in turn, nutrients or fertilizers.

JOSÉ MARTÍNEZ
Brewing Master

"It sounds wonderful that the products or subproducts from beer production can be reused in some way."

The last goal of this project, of which research centers in Spain, Colombia, and Argentina participate, is...

CINTIA GÓMEZ
Researcher from the University of Almería

"That this technology can be implanted into the brewing industry so that it leaves more profitable than the filtration systems that they already have."

The production of the Spanish brewing sector reached 33.6 million hectolitres in 2014, and continues to be the beverage that generates the most amount of jobs.