

Harnessing Sargassum Seaweed a Green Economy Opportunity

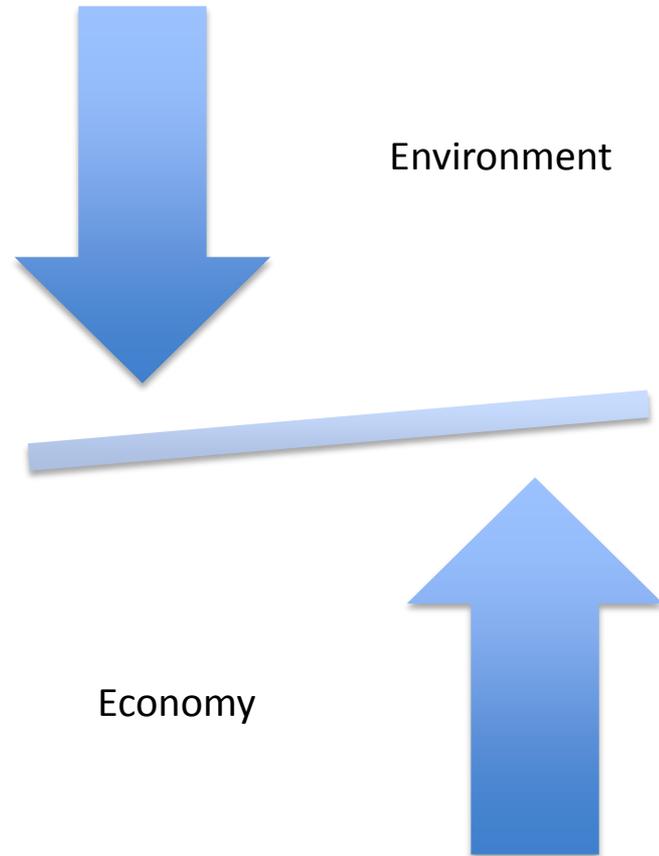
Winston Moore (PhD)

Department of Economics

University of the West Indies, Cave Hill
Campus

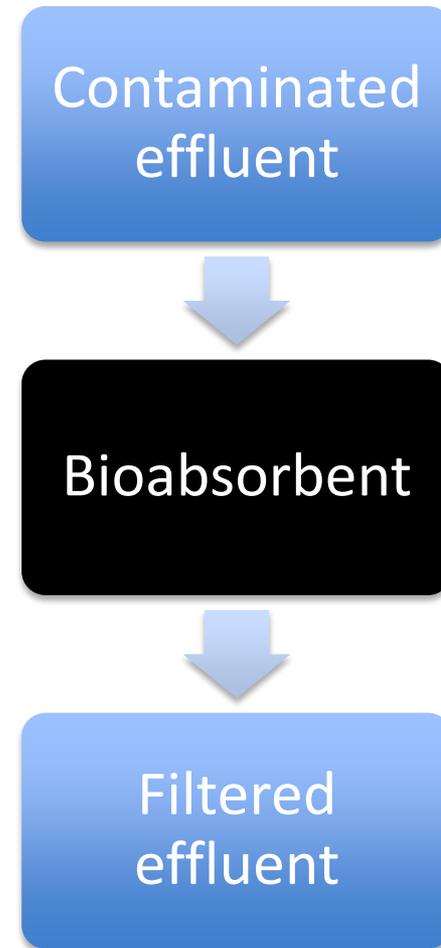
Green Economy

- An economy that results in “improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities” (UNEP, 2010).

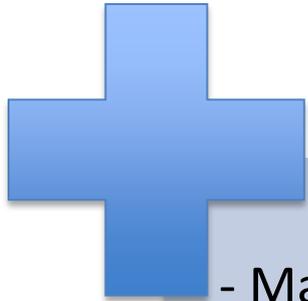


Potential Opportunities: Bioabsorption

- Metal mining and processing increases the presence of toxic heavy metals in the environment.
- Conventional technologies are expensive and do not reliably remove trace metals.



Potential Opportunities: Bioabsorption

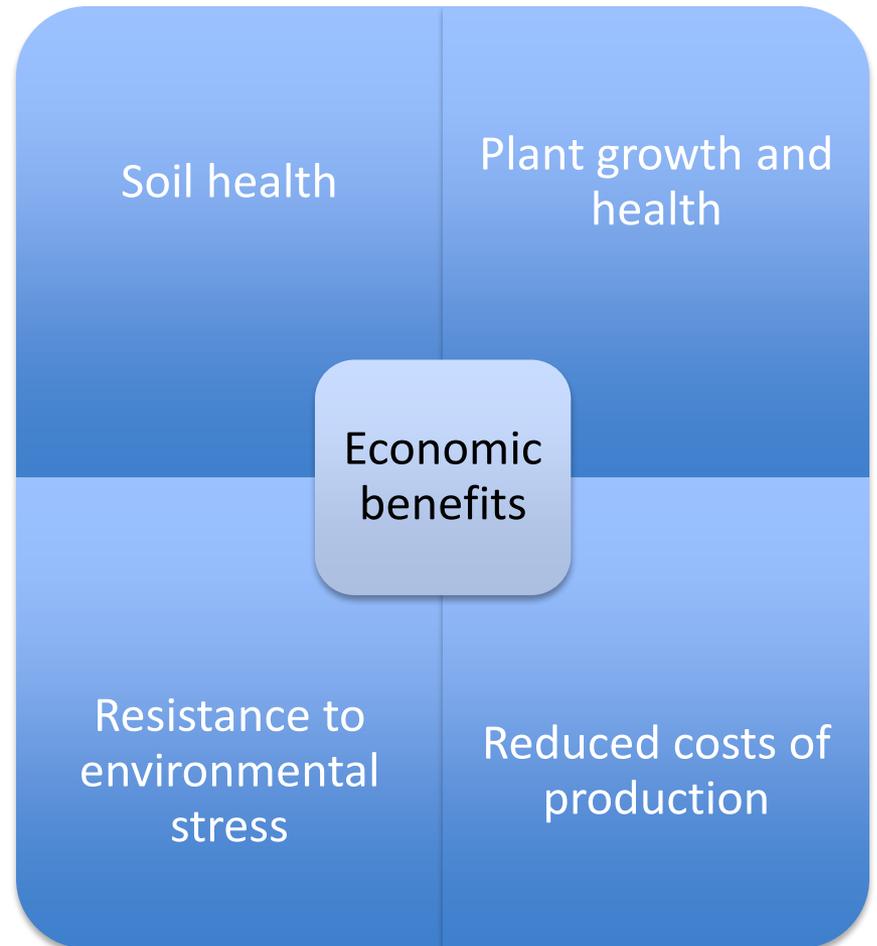


- Markets exist for cheap biosorbents
 - Development of technology could open new markets
 - Ion exchange has reached its technological limits
 - Potential returns of 25% and a payback of just over 3 years.
- Ion exchange has a long track record
 - Additional R&D work is needed

Source: Volesky, B., & Naja, G. (2007). Biosorption technology: starting up an enterprise. *International Journal of Technology Transfer and Commercialisation*, 6(2-4), 196-211.

Potential Opportunities: Plant Growth

- Seaweed is often identified as a potentially underutilized resource in agriculture.



Potential Opportunities: Links with Manufacturing

- Seaweed bar soap
- Seaweed body wash/creams
- Seaweed gels

Potential Opportunities: Links with Manufacturing

Small business opportunities

Green exports

Employment

Links with tourism

Foreign exchange

Enabling Environment

- Challenges
 - strained public finance
 - access to finance
 - innovation capacity

Enabling Environment

- Opportunities
 - economic diversification
 - foreign exchange
 - foster links between industry and business

Conclusions

- Economy vs. Environment
- Many opportunities
 - Additional R&D will still be needed
- Public sector will need to be flexible and accommodating to new business ideas

THE END