

Sousa Ribeirinho, Marisa Sofia
University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro
Nationality: Portuguese

Orientation: Sustainable Use of Marine Resources
Specialization Area: Transformation and Valorization
Research Area: 2.16 New products of marine origin



PhD project: Valorization of the endogenous marine resource *Salicornia ramosissima*: application in food and pharmaceuticals industries

Supervisors: José Carlos Esteves Gomes Laranjo (UTAD)
Sérgio Miguel Franco Martins Leandro (IPL)

Summary: Usually designated by green salt, *Salicornia* is a healthy plant and an alternative to salt. In Portugal, it is still unknown to the public, but in other countries of Europe is appreciated and considered a *gourmet* product. The main objectives of the thesis, are to characterize and develop sustainable *Salicornia* production from different regions of Portugal, like a marine food resource. Briefly, massive production of *Salicornia* from seed will be developed. At the end, the usage of *Salicornia* extracts for create innovative dietetic food that fits the goal of an exigent consumer segment in terms of quality, healthy and *gourmet*. The methods that are included are: collection of *Salicornia* plants, coming from different places in Portugal by the sea; chemical analysis of mineral compounds from the plant; establishment of *Salicornia* in greenhouse *in situ*, *ex situ*, sensory analysis, commercial production and ingredients; analysis of variability, composition and potential applications of *Salicornia*; and, technological tests on food products and comparison with regional products. For that we expected the results: increase the applicability of *Salicornia* as an ingredient and nutritional plant; present proposals for application as an ingredient; and, acquisition of knowhow for the production in large scale.

