



## Piloting scaled spirulina production



### Snapshot

**Industry partners:** NZ Algae Innovations Ltd

**Project length:** 2 years

**Start date:** October 2019

**Estimated completion date:**  
November 2021

**Industry funding:** \$390,000

**MPI funding:** \$260,000

**NZ Algae Innovations Ltd is piloting scaled spirulina production, which may create a new sector for New Zealand's primary industries.**

### The opportunity

In New Zealand there is currently just one spirulina farm, located in Himatangi, Manawatu. However, there is an opportunity for spirulina farming to provide a new form of primary production in New Zealand. Spirulina is able to adapt to a wide range of climatic conditions. Its very low carbon and water footprint make it an ideal land use to mitigate the effects of agricultural production on carbon emissions. NZ Algae Innovations Ltd will assess the viability of larger scale production of spirulina, which could lead to establishing an algal protein sector in New Zealand.

### The solution

This project will enable spirulina production in New Zealand at a pilot scale sufficient to test a proof-of-concept. It will provide the knowledge and market confidence required to support next steps towards

full commercial scale production. The project will establish a new business model so modular production units can be replicated in potential growing regions across New Zealand.

### The benefits

This project could benefit New Zealand by:

- providing a new, sustainable and financially viable land use option;
- delivering economic returns for regional New Zealand;
- creating a healthy product with a low carbon and water footprint;
- providing new employment opportunities.