The latest addition to the Florida Institute of Technology Marine Research Facility at Vero Beach is Florida Algae LLC. Florida Algae began two years ago as a research and product development company focused on the commercialization of healthy alternative food products made from algae. The use of algae in farming benefits us in many ways because it is a much more efficient way to produce more vegetable protein per acre, and uses far less fresh water.

The company is devoted to the development of environmentally safe and organic uses of our land and water resources. As the World’s ever increasing population stresses the planet’s limited resources, it will be extremely important to utilize algae as a food crop.

In June of 2013, Florida Algae introduced its first food product, grown here in Vero Beach. It is known as Sprulina Ice, which is grown at the FIT facility under the approval of the USDA and the Florida Department of Aquaculture.

This newly developed version of an ancient food source is now currently available in health food stores and online at www.spirulinaice.com. The product is an organic, raw, frozen, vegan, high-protein smoothie booster that contains an abundance of vitamins and minerals. The protein levels are above 70% and the nutrient content is well beyond that of most land-farmed vegetables.

They see this preliminary product, and others that will follow, to be a considerable contribution to offsetting world hunger. Algae products will help increase our per-acre production of protein in the future that will benefit us all.

Besides food product development from algae, Florida Algae is also involved in other research projects with Arizona State University, including the development of algae for fuel. They are also involved in research projects for the enhancement of animal feed with Spirulina Algae, as a way to reduce the reliance upon antibiotics and hormones in world food production.

Their mission is to grow and develop a better food for a better world in a better way!

To find out more about the exciting things happening here in Vero Beach with Florida Algae, visit www.floridaalgae.com.