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Scaling up alternative to palm oil

An innovation to produce an alternative to palm oil for food applications, developed by scientists at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) will be scaled-up for commercial production through a partnership with Eves Energy, a research and development company that focusses on scaling up innovations that hold key to clean energy systems.

The innovation developed by NTU Singapore scientists features a method that effectively produces and extracts plant-



based oils from a type of common microalgae.

As the oils produced from the microalgae are edible and have superior properties as those found in palm oil, the newly discovered method would serve as a healthier and greener alternative to palm oil.

After the oil has been harvested by the algae, the rest of the plant, which is edible, is then converted into algae cake, a nutrient-rich food product that can be converted into supplements,

as well as used in food production as seaweed.

The collaboration will see Eves Energy set up a facility in Indonesia in 2024 to produce 1.2 million metric tons of microalgae oil and 1.2 million metric tons of algae cake within two years. In addition to being a palm oil alternative, the microalgae oil produced from this endeavour could also be a sustainable source of renewable energy.

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