


Yes Naturally



SUPERPLANTS: TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE?

Plants and algae have ‘known’ it for billions of years: The Sun is an endless open source of energy. Through the process of photosynthesis they transfer solar energy into chemical energy. This ‘natural’ system of photosynthesis, however, is not as efficient as it would appear. Plants, for instance, capture only about 1 to 2% of the Sun’s light as usable energy.

BioSolar Cells is a scientific and technological research project looking into viable solutions to the multiple crises of energy, climate and food. The project aims to better understand photosynthesis by exploring its possibilities more efficiently. How to do this in both living organisms (plants and algae)

as well as in ‘artificial leaves’? Also how do we feel about applying modern technologies such as gene technology to existing life forms for the good of a sustainable future? What is the impact of ‘bio-inspired design on our notion of nature? Is there a limit to science and can we assess the long-term consequences?

Money and legislation play a major role in the use and availability of technology. These two factors are most evident when it comes to Intellectual Property Rights (IRPs) and market access resulting in the exclusion of small and local players. That is why this symposium will focus on legislation, transparency, and societal momentum driving technological progress.