

Launch of BIOGROW Philippines

It was 4 years ago that our management team first visited the Philippines to explore the possibility of creating a new production site to support our operations in Sri Lanka, India and Brazil. When we saw the huge potential this country had to offer not only in available raw material - the Philippines is the second largest producer of coconut behind Indonesia - but also with its proximity to China and other emerging Asia-Pacific markets, it was clear we'd found the right location. We also became involved early on with an NGO that was doing great work to promote the valorization of the coconut husk and create employment in the local economy. This valuable partnership is growing developing all the time.

In the beginning of 2021 the first building permits were granted, the electricity was finally connected, and the first machines started to arrive. By April production began with our first operational chipping mill, and every new machine installed thereafter created new jobs at the plant. By August our first trial container was finished and exported thanks to the great efforts and dedication of our team, marking a big milestone for the factory. Now, 9 months into 2021, we have completed most of the construction and production is running continuously.



New BG website

Last year, we decided to redesign the BIOGROW website so that it would better represent who we are as a company, our current development projects, and our vision for the future. One of the key drivers for this project is our belief that in order to offer the best substrate solutions it's necessary to have both a global and local presence and understanding of the market.

With production sites in India, Sri Lanka, Brazil, and a brand new facility in the Philippines, we are now more than ever better able to respond to the growing demand for quality substrates. Our extensive network of partners and distributors also plays a vital role in the high level of service we're able to offer our customers.

For the Home Page, we created a world map that shows where we're located around the world; production (light green), distribution (orange), and our head office in the South of France (dark green).

Visit our new website: www.bio-grow.com.

"Automation appears to be the logical solution to fill the ever-widening gap in the agricultural labour market."

Harvesting Robots

One of the biggest issues facing commercial farmers nowadays, outdoor and indoor, is labour scarcity. The reality is newer generations are not taking up farming and this is true across the globe. Automation appears to be the logical solution to fill this ever-widening gap in the agricultural labour market. Robots are now being developed for picking tomatoes, leaf pruning and other manual tasks.

There now seems to be 2 distinct directions the teams of developers are going in. The first is a mono-task robot that would specialise in labour-intensive tasks such as picking, leaf-cutting and lowering. The second is a multi-task robot that would perform an array of different tasks in the greenhouse and also have the capacity to take measurements of crops, predict tomato harvests by scanning and analysing produce lines, and perhaps most importantly of all, especially for large-scale growing operations, raise the alarm if any sanitary issues are identified. Additionally, a number of different business models are envisaged. One option would be for the grower to buy the robot outright, another would be to enter into a leasing and maintenance agreement with the constructor.

Here in France, there's a robotics company based in Brittany who are getting a lot of attention for the work they're doing developing robots for modern hydroponic farming. AISPRID was created at the end of 2019 with the aim of finding a robotic solution to the worldwide problem of labour shortage in the agriculture sector. The 3 co-founders of AISPRID come from backgrounds in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and software engineering. With 4.6 million euros of funding behind them and patents pending this is a company going places fast. Read more on the BIOGROW website.



News in brief:

- Thank you to all the visitors who came to see us at the Horti China exhibition in Qingdao
- Follow the progress of the Vila Group's latest semi-closed greenhouse on LinkedIn



Come & meet us:

- **Agri Tech India 2021**

BIEC Bangalore, India
28-30 September 2021

12th Edition
**Agri Tech
India 2021**

- **Expo AgroAlimentaria Guanajuato**

Irapuato, Mexico
09-12 November 2021



EXPO
AGROALIMENTARIA
GUANAJUATO
HORROR - TECNOLOGIA - BIOMIMETICA

Connect with us:



www.bio-grow.com



contact@bio-grow.com



+33 (0) 468 373 939

SEPT 2021

EDITION

02