

Launch of the new Biogrow Training Center

We are excited to announce the opening of our new, state-of-the-art training facility for soilless growing in Bangalore! Entirely free of charge for our valued customers, and available at a nominal fee for all other interested parties, our 3-day training courses are designed to help anyone planning to grow in cocopeat – or who are already doing so – get the most out of their crops.

With expert guidance from qualified agronomists and overseas technicians, there's not much we don't know about growing on cocopeat, and we can't wait to share it with you!

With the development of Biogrow Protec came the need for a manager to oversee operations at the training center, and steer the new venture on the right path. The position attracted an experienced grower, Sara Nour from Darwin, Australia.



Sara has extensive professional experience in providing technical & agronomic support for hydroponic berries, hydroponic vegetables, commercial sandalwood, and tropical fruit horticulture, working for global agribusinesses and government research. Her previous roles included Agronomist for Southern Australia for Driscolls Berries, where she collaborated with colleagues in the US, Europe, South America, and China, and attended specialized hydroponic growing training in the US.

She has also worked in Integrated Pest and Disease Management for Flavorite Tomatoes, then Australia's largest hydroponic vegetable glasshouse, for Chisholm Glasshouse, De Ruiters' Australian showcase, as Senior Research Horticulturist for the Northern Australian government, and as Research and Development Manager for Santanol Sandalwood.

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"In 2022, the Andean country exported 287,806 tons of blueberries, worth about \$1.4 billion. After being a minor competitor for the past decade, it has crowned itself the king of so-called "blue gold."

Peru: the king of "blue gold"

Peru is one of the 5 largest producers of avocado, blueberry, artichoke and asparagus, one of the 10 largest producers in the world of coffee and cocoa, one of the 15 largest producers in the world of potato and pineapple, and also has a considerable production of grape, sugarcane, rice, banana, maize and cassava; its agriculture is considerably diversified.

Peru has broken through in the world of forest fruits. The South American country has become the main exporter of blueberries on the planet, surpassing great powers such as the U.S., Canada and Chile. After being a minor competitor for the past decade, it has crowned itself the king of so-called "blue gold."

The recipe for success has several ingredients: a perfect habitat (the coastal desert, with significant plots of land for large-scale production), the development of sophisticated irrigation systems (which have allowed for high productivity), science-based agriculture (with difficult research work in plant genetics) and a group of companies open to exploring new varieties to satisfy the market.

In 2022, the Andean country exported 287,806 tons of blueberries, worth about \$1.4 billion. This figure represents a historical record – the fourth in a row for a national enterprise that, in 2012, didn't sell any blueberries beyond its borders.



Currently, Peruvian farmers produce the fruit throughout the year, although the peak of production occurs between September and October. There are more than 20,000 hectares devoted to blueberries, which are sold in 30 nations. The country ranks third as a producer, after the US and China, it is estimated that 135,000 direct jobs have been created thanks to the success of blueberry growing in Peru.

As for the varieties, more than 65 different ones have been certified. Gereda – in collaboration with the University of Georgia – is developing new ones. "The blueberry is the last great agro-export product in the country, but it was preceded by asparagus, grapes and avocados," explains Piero Ghezzi, founding partner of HacerPerú and a former Peruvian minister of production.

Ghezzi points out that the recent success is due to a confluence of factors. Firstly, because of the public policy decisions that the country has taken in recent decades. Among them, the development of irrigation projects along the Peruvian coast, the strengthening of Senasa – the health inspection entity in charge of opening new export markets – as well as the Agrarian Promotion Law. Passed in 2000, the legislation established a special tax and labor protocol, as well as free trade agreements signed with different markets, including the United States, China and the EU, which have allowed for duty-free exports.

The boom, however, is not without its risks. The main one is farmers expanding production too fast. This could put pressure on margins and prices, which have already been on the decline in recent years. And then, there are other factors: competition from other countries, geopolitical tensions (such as the war in Ukraine, which has increased the costs of inputs), logistical difficulties, internal political unrest and the effects of climate change.



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Installation of dryer boosts production in India

Installed at our processing unit in 2023, we purchased an industrial dryer primarily to help us secure and process more raw material, so that we could keep up with customer demand, and remain one of the country's top suppliers of premium cocopeat.

With it's boiler powered by biomass , and capable of drying large quantities of raw material at any given time, the industrial dryer has meant that we are no longer at the mercy of inclement weather (predominantly rain), and can continue processing for as long as we need to. We have also been able to increase our production substantially, and guarantee dispatch and delivery no matter what Mother Nature might throw at us! This isn't just good news for us, of course, but for our valued clients.

Although a long term investment, we are already reaping the rewards, and hope to continue doing so for many years to come.



News in brief:

- Biogrow Philippines celebrates 3 year anniversary
- New storage building inaugurated in Sri Lanka



Come & meet us:



1. Floriculture

When : 25th to 27th October 2024

Where : Bombay Exhibition Center, Mumbai, India

2. Krishithon

When : 21st to 25h November 2024

Where : Thakkar Ground, Nashik, India

3. Kisan

When : 11th to 15th December 2024

Where : Pune International Exhibition and Convention Center, Pune, India

4. AgroAlimentaria

When : 12th to 15th November, 2024

Where : Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico

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