



*pictures: Champinter, Spain*



## DEAR READER

Before you is the 7th successive issue of the bulletin. The very first bulletin was published at the time to mark the occasion of the opening of our new premises on the Witveldweg in Horst on 1-1-2003. We are now on the eve of celebrating our fifth anniversary at this location. Many changes have taken place in the past five years. Particularly striking is that situating the three companies as physical neighbours has literally and figuratively reduced all the communication lines. Mutual consultation has intensified, data exchange has been accelerated thanks to an internal network, the project development and sales departments have been centralised, and as a logical move, more departments are set to follow soon.

In general we can safely state that the dividing lines between the various companies are fading and that the approach is more united. We present one face to the outside world, which represents the multi-disciplinary facets of the various specialisms. The Christiaens Group has actually become simply Christiaens.

The increased unity in our company has not gone unnoticed with our customers either. More and more often we hear Christiaens being named as the ideal partner for turn key projects, simply because we have all the various disciplines involved under a single roof. This is extremely encouraging news, but we would also like to emphasise that we do more than complex turn key projects alone. Customers are welcome to approach us at all times for other projects, no matter how small.

Many things have changed for our customers too over the years. After several years of surpluses on the market, the current increasing global demand has slowly resulted in a lack of mushrooms and compost. Last year saw many projects that had been postponed, actually being brought forward and completed.

Another noticeable trend is the on-going professionalism of the branch. This is motivated by continued up-scaling, increasing legislation imposed by the authorities and higher and higher demands being placed on quality by customers. The critical attitude of the branch towards its suppliers in this case is completely justified. Our response is to devote extra attention and care to our internal quality inspections and our after sales service.

We are encouraged and pleased by the upbeat and optimistic feeling in the entire industry. Our challenge is make the branch a little bit greener...



## ARYA ROOIESH COMPANY

TEHRAN, IRAN

For many years Arya Rooiesh is one of the most modern mushroom growing companies in Iran. They also produce compost for their own farm. A couple of years ago they decided to make compost in a more professional way. They bought some property and built a composting yard which produces Phase 1 and Phase 2 compost on a large scale.

The facility consists out of 11 phase 1 bunkers and 14 Phase 2 tunnels. The capacity of each tunnel is 150 tons of Phase 1 input. The total production is about 1500 tons of Phase 2 compost per week. Arya Rooiesh is at the moment the biggest Phase 2 compost producer in the Middle East.

The Phase 1 bunkers are filled by means of an overhead filling system. The tunnels are filled with a filling cassette and emptied via a tunnel winch. In the emptying hall is a central conveyor which brings the compost to 2 blocking machines. The advantages of 2 blocking machines are mainly a higher capacity and it is much more easier to work with 2 separate spawn types at the same time.

"I choose to buy from the Christiaens Group because they are the biggest in the world and have the best technology. I only want to buy the best equipment and I don't want to experience with local manufactured machines." Says mr. Razavi, owner of the company.





## BELFUNGO

FALZE DI TREVIGNANO, ITALY

Belfungo is one of the partners in Consorzio Funghi de Treviso and is owned by the brothers Mauro, Paolo and Walter Ceron.

The mushrooms from Consorzio Funghi de Treviso outshine in excellent quality and shelf life.

In 2006 Christiaens built a turnkey farm of 12 rooms of each 324 M2 growing surface. The characteristic of this farm was its high efficiency and high production of excellent mushrooms. It was no wonder that they soon knocked on our door for an expansion of the farm.

In 2007 the order was given to Christiaens to double the farm with another 12 rooms.

“In order to guarantee and maintain a high quality we need to use the best techniques available. That is the reason we built with Christiaens in 2006 and we did so again with this new expansion”.

## CHAMPRA

PRADEJON, SPAIN

Champra is a cooperative compost producer in Pradejon, la Rioja who produces phase 2 compost in blocks, mainly for it's own members. The Phase 1 compost yard consists out of 21 aerated indoor tunnels of each 150 Tons. There are 2 rows of tunnels opposite to each other; one of 10 tunnels and one of 11 tunnels with a 50 m. wide apron in between.

The problem with the existing yard was that due to it's set-up and the (not) available mixing equipment the compost had to be re-tunneled quite often. Bearing in mind that the batch sizes are considerably small, it meant a lot of handling of material and machines. The existing filling equipment consisted out of 2 sets of filling belts with each a small compost hopper.

Christiaens was given the task to re designed the lay out of the mixing and filling equipment with the goal to increase the compost quality and handling speed and eliminate a part of the labour and loader costs.

By placing a central conveyor system in combination with a Christy floor mixing hopper and a tunnel filling cassette with a overall capacity of over 250 tonnes / hour all targets were achieved; higher production, better quality with higher efficiency.



## COX

### BROEKHUIZEN, THE NETHERLANDS

Champignonkwekerij Cox has been growing mushrooms for the canning industry for several years. The farm already had 2 mushroom farms before they decided to expand with an extra farm. The decision to build 8 growing rooms of 1382 m<sup>2</sup> each was taken in November 2006. Each room has 2 rows of shelves, 8 levels high.

In week 9 of 2007, the building of the new farm started with the groundwork. The first fill took place in week 37. Initially this had been planned several weeks later but due to good organisation and efficiency the schedule was shortened.

The design is based on mechanical harvesting in combination with a 4-week growing schedule, resulting in an expected weekly production of 95 tons. The advantages of this new farm are a larger working space, central processing of the mushrooms and a covered compost hall which gives good working conditions. The high level of mechanisation enables improved productivity as well.

Before making the decision to work with the Christiaens Group, Jos Cox, the director of Cox, visited several farms. "The reasons for choosing the Christiaens Group were obvious. The farms built by the Christiaens Group looked very good and reliable. And the fact that this company handles all three disciplines gave me a comfortable feeling. Not only that, they offered me a good, competitive price for the materials and services they provide. I think that the Christiaens Group is the only partner which can handle such big turnkey projects."





## DOFE

### BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Mushroom growers Dofe have been cultivating mushrooms for the fresh market for some time. As the existing buildings no longer met today's standards, construction of new premises started in the spring of 2006 at a new location. The first growing room was filled in September 2006. Christiaens organised construction as a turn-key project. The farm was constructed by local builders, assisted by a number of supervisors from Christiaens.

The farm has 6 growing rooms, each with a growing surface area of 518m<sup>2</sup>. Phase 3 compost is filled, and a 6-week growing schedule used. Each week around 15 tons of mushrooms are harvested. The farm was designed to accommodate a packing facility on site. Transport to the customers takes place directly from the farm.

Building a new farm was necessary to comply with the efficiency and quality standards currently expected. The Christiaens group was awarded the order as they offered a turn-key solution, combined with the advantage of using cheaper, local labour. The main advantage of the turn-key approach is found in the integration of the various disciplines, which considerably shortens the construction time and reduces the risk of misunderstanding.



## SELF-DRIVING PICKING LORRIES

As already mentioned in the foreword to our 5th bulletin, Christiaens is closely involved in developments aimed at increasing picking performance efficiency. One of the most successful developments in this domain is the self-driving picking lorry. Various development stages have followed the launch of the first model in 2003 and since 2006 we have been manufacturing a new generation of lorries which incorporate the many modifications suggested by users.

160 new generation lorries have already been delivered and a further 70 have been ordered. We are also starting to notice an increasing demand from abroad. Apparently, foreign growers have also started to see that harvesting costs are rising and recognise that despite the high initial investment costs, these lorries soon start to show excellent returns...





## EDELWEISS

**SAMARA, RUSSIA**

Edeleweiss is the mushroom growing branch of the Oriks group of companies owned by Andrey Zimnukhov and is located in Samara, Russia.

The shortage of mushrooms on the market prompted plans in 2004 to build a mushroom farm. After various meetings between the customer and Christiaens, the decision was made to construct 12 growing rooms, each with a growing surface area of 882m<sup>2</sup>.

The compost is supplied by a composting company in the Moscow region and is transported to the farm (a distance of about 1000 km). In the first instance, Phase 2 compost is being filled, but the growers intend to switch to filling Phase 3 compost in the future. The projected production capacity of the farm will be approximately 45 to 50 tons of mushrooms per week.

The owners were responsible for actually building the farm, with the help of specific know-how from Christiaens. In consultation with Christiaens the plant was equipped with a central air treatment unit which eliminates the influences of the extreme climate in the summer and winter before air is sent to the individual units for the growing rooms. All the instructions required to regulate and manage the growing rooms are in Russian, which makes it easier for the users. A project has been set up to make their own compost so the company is guaranteed a supply of Phase 3 compost and at the same time can drastically reduce the transport time, which will have a positive effect on the compost quality.



## KRIZANIC

**KRIZANIC, CROATIA**

Mr. Dejan Krizanic runs a mushroom farm near Nova Gradiska in Croatia.

In April 2007 the new farm was put in production. The farm consists out of 6 growing rooms of each 265m<sup>2</sup> of shelf surface and a working corridor. The old farm, which used to be a bag farm, was converted into packing hall, cold store, office and social rooms. The new farm runs on phase 3 compost and produces about 8 Tons of fresh market mushrooms a week. It was built by Christiaens as a turnkey operation and was realised in 5 months time. The choice for Christiaens as supplier was on recommendation of their compost supplier Bio Fungi. It turned out to be the right choice. "I'm very pleased with the organisation, the engineering and controls" says mr. Krizanic...





## SNOWCAP

**DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**

Snow Cap Mushrooms is situated about 40 Km west of Durban, South Africa. Christiaens designed a tailored compost yard and pasteurisation tunnel and after a total building time of just 7 months the facility was put in production in February 2007. The compost yard consists out of an aerated prewet slab, a phase 1 bunker and a phase 2 tunnel. All 3 operations run with a spigot floor system. The design capacity for the whole facility is 80Tons of phase 2 compost per week. According to Rob Stuart his findings the advantages of the new facility are numerous:

- Complete control of the composting process
- Reduced smell due to aerated floors
- The yard size is reduced as the compost is placed on a prewet floor.
- The panel tunnel is a complete unit which helps in construction and the tunnel is very airtight
- The yard can be controlled from the office which is 20 km away.
- A 30% increase in mushroom yield

"I am very happy with the presales advice regarding the project. The supply of all the equipment was outstanding - all boxes marked - all items received in good condition with nothing short supplied. The construction advice was good. We constructed the entire project ourselves without the help of a technician- using plans supplied and telephonic advice. After 6 months of producing compost I am very happy with the quality of compost and I only wish I had used the Christiaens design 10 years ago!"

## UKRCHAMPIGNON

**LITVINETS, UKRAÏNE**

Ukrchampignon is a subdivision of the Veres Group of companies and are located in the Kanev, Cherkassy Area, in the heart of the Ukraine. The company produces 1000 Tonnes of phase 2 compost, 250 tonnes of casing soil mix and 300 tonnes of fresh mushrooms per week.

In 2006 the company decided to replace the existing bunker and tunnel filling machines and did inquiries at several machine manufacturers. The choice finally was made for Christiaens machines, based on the trust they had in the well known brand. Also the experience they had with the existing Christiaens bunker filler, it's power, capacity and reliability made the choice obvious.

The order was placed for three new bunker / tunnel filling hoppers and in November 2006 the three machines were put in operation.





# Christiaens Group

| the power of combined experience |

## Projects in progress worldwide 2008

Shandon Zishan	China	5 Phase 1 bunkers, 17 Phase 2/3 tunnels, 48 growing rooms
Komport Tarim	Turkey	8 Phase 1 bunkers, 6 Phase 2 tunnels, turnkey
Laurel valley	U.S.A.	10 Phase 2 tunnels, turnkey
Adelaide	Australia	32 growing rooms, turnkey
Pilzhof	Germany	Expansion, 6 Phase 2/3 tunnels, turnkey
Prinevskoe	Russia	12 growing rooms, turnkey
Vogelzangs	Netherlands	4 growing rooms, turnkey
Wiesenhof	Germany	5 growing rooms, turnkey
Willems	Netherlands	Expansion, elongation of 12 growing rooms, turnkey
Bio Fungi	Hungary	6 growing rooms, turnkey
Bio Fungi	Hungary	Expansion, 7 Phase 2/3 tunnels
Carpe Diem	Netherlands	Renovation of 25 existing rooms
Baltic Mushrooms	Lithuania	Head end filling machine and growing equipment
Global Progres	Slovakia	Several equipment for tunnels and growing rooms
Danish Mushrooms	Denmark	Compost mixing line
Tunnel Tech North	Great Britain	Phase 2 tunnel filling line
Chantarelle	South Africa	Phase 1 and 2 facility
Forest Fresh	South Africa	9 growing rooms
Monterey Mushrooms	Mexico	8 growing rooms
Walkro	Netherlands	Special tunnel emptying winch
Champi Rioja	Spain	4 tunnels for pleurotis substrate
Belfungo	Italy	Expansion, 12 growing rooms

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