

# bulletin

CHRISTIAENS GROUP



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Group**

This bulletin was published for the official opening on the 10th of May 2003 and to celebrate our 25th year in the mushroom business.

Our company names have also been changed:

JanssenKessel is now **Christiaens Controls**

Van Rens is now **Christiaens Construction**

Christiaens Horst is now **Christiaens Machines** and

Chrisko is now **Christiaens Machines**

Our group has built a new facility covering 5 acres with 3 production units:

- Construction
- Machines
- Controls

About 100 engineers, both in the office and around the world, are responsible for our projects. This bulletin will give you an impression of a number of active projects.

Simplicity is just everything.....



## MUSHROOM PRODUCERS CO-OPERATIVE HARLEY, CANADA

In the mid-1990s, a number of Canadian growers decided to start producing full-grown compost centrally. The rising demand for mushrooms from the USA and the resulting shortage of compost meant a decision was taken in 2001 was taken to drastically enlarge the existing facility.

In July 2001 work commenced on the construction of 5 indoor tunnels each with a 600-ton capacity and at the same time 8 phase 2 / 3 tunnels each of 200 tons. This had the immediate effect of doubling the production capacity to a total of 725 tons of fully-grown

substrate weekly. As a high level of mechanisation was chosen by filling from above, only one extra employee was needed to cope with the doubling in capacity.

*The indoor phase 1 system was the ideal solution:*

- Less total floor surface compared to heaps
- Compost turner and pre-wet machine no longer required
- Quicker composting time
- No more weekend work
- No weather influences (+35° to -40°C)
- Considerable reduction in odour nuisance

"We chose Christiaens for their expertise and building knowledge. The co-operative members were convinced that only a system already proven in Europe would be the answer. In the Christiaens Group we have found a partner able to solve our problems today and in the future".

*Christiaens has become the regular supplier for the co-operative members.*



## DOHME HAVELAND CHAMPIGNONS TIETZOW, GERMANY

Construction of 9 phase 2 / 3 tunnels of 200 ton each and 10 phase 4, or pinned trays, rooms. Planned start of production: September 2003.





## PILZHOF WALLHAUSEN, GERMANY

In 1998, at the former Theeuwen in Blitterswijck, an expansion drive was under way to construct various composting facilities throughout Europe. Christiaens was approached for the engineering side of the composting facility and the tray farm. Construction of a phase 4 farm started in 1999. This is a farm where the trays are filled and kept in rooms until the pinheading stage. The trays are then distributed to various independent growers in the surrounding area who subsequently manage further growth and harvesting.

A year later a phase 2 / 3 tunnel facility was built with a

capacity of 800 tons of fully-grown substrate per week.

In 2001 the project was rounded off with an indoor phase 1 facility consisting of 5 600-ton tunnels and a weekly production of 1200 tons. During this period the entire company was taken over by a joint venture between Walkro and Heveco.

In 2003, they commissioned Christiaens to handle the extension of both the phase 2 / 3 tunnels and the phase 4. This will increase the current capacity to 1800 tons phase 1.



## MAATSCHAP WILLEMS KESSEL, THE NETHERLANDS

In 1998 Sjra Willems decided to build a new growing farm for mushrooms for the canning industry. The existing farm comprised 14 rooms with 4 beds high shelving. The new farm had 6 rooms each 3 times larger with 7 beds high. Total cultivation surface of 750m<sup>2</sup> per room.

In 2000 the new farm doubled its size to 12 rooms.

In 2002 construction started on a new farm of 6 rooms of 1200m<sup>2</sup>. Contrary to the first

scheme, this turnkey key project was entirely in Christiaens' hands.





EMPTYING HALL



CIF. E5 8317439/4  
Las Machorras, s/n.  
31580 LODOSA (Navarra)



## GERMINADOS DEL COMPOST S.L. LODOSA, NAVARRA, SPAIN

In 2002 Christiaens came into contact with Germinados de compost.

The request was for a turnkey installation with as output 400-tonnes phase 3 substrate, which corresponds to 20,000 blocks of fully-grown substrate for agaricus.

The first spade put into the ground in May 2002. In December of the same year the first blocks were rolling off the block press.....

The current production capacity amounts to 1 million blocks annually.

The reason to choose fully-grown substrate was clear: they are the very first producers on the Spanish market. In addition, fully-grown compost has the

advantage of producing better quality mushrooms with a reduced chance of diseases. Using additives and improved hygiene, higher production levels can be achieved.

Shorter cycle times on the farms means that the production capacity per farm can be raised by some 30%.

"After visiting several production facilities built by Christiaens in Europe, we came to the conclusion that their technology was best suited to our demands" according to Alfredo Lopez of Germinados.



## WORKSHOP PHASE 1 COMPOSTING



Feedback to composters, and a good sense of field experience lie at the root of innovation. With this in mind a number of workshops were organised to allow all players in the "game" to transfer and share their pool of knowledge. Composters from far and wide attended these workshops. They were given the opportunity to learn about the basics of 'black box' composting.



## ELF FARM SUPPLIES SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



In 1993, Rob Tolson of Elf Farm Supplies developed the first aerated floor using the spigot system.

2 tunnels were built, each of 300 tons, to house the compost for the last few days of the composting process. The current installation has a capacity of 600 tons of fresh compost weekly.

"We opted for Christiaens because only they could supply machinery that meets our own exacting standards. We also benefited from their wealth of experience during the engineering and implementation stages of the project".

The phase I project started at the beginning of 2003. The installation comprises 8 phase



I tunnels of 300 ton filled from the top. Spent processed air is extracted via an air washer and chimney duct.

"The biggest gains can be seen in the reduced number of loader and man-hours," says Rob Tolson.

The follow-up order is 13 phase 2 / 3 tunnels for the production of 480 tons fully-grown substrate each week.

## FUNGHI DI TREVISO TREVISO, ITALY



Funghi di Treviso is a co-operative formed by a group of mushroom growers in the Treviso region (close to Venice) with the aim of creating a joint marketing strategy for their mushrooms.

As Christiaens had already supplied several of the members in the past with climate installations, computers and machinery, the group had enough confidence in Christiaens to commission a turnkey growing facility of 24 rooms to answer growing market demands for their produce.

Building started in July 2002. 7 Months later the first mushrooms were being harvested. The farm is set up to handle an annual production of approximately 2000 tons.

High production levels and excellent mushroom quality were the decisive factors motivating one of the members to commission another project for a 12 room growing farm in 2003...



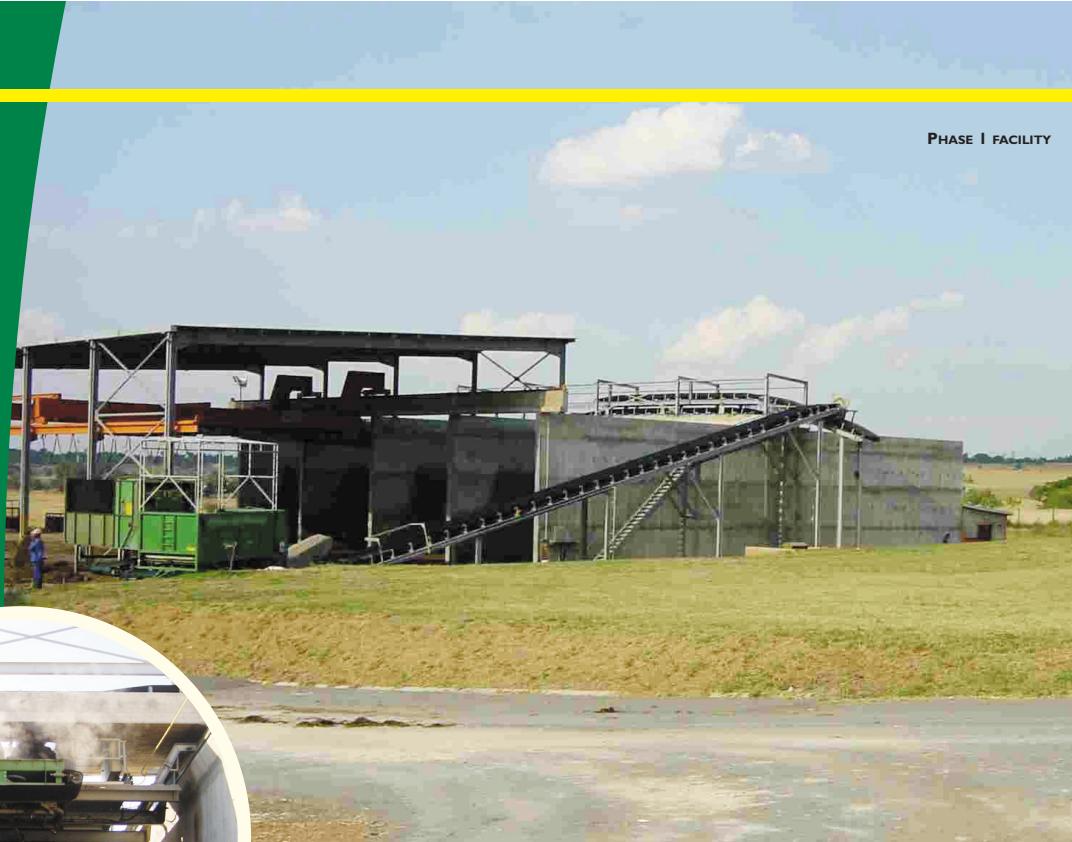
CONSORZIO FUNGHI DI TREVISO

il prodotto

il processo produttivo

la distribuzione

il rispetto per la natura



TOP LAYER FILTER

## HIGHVELD MUSHROOMS

That Christiaens is a truly global player is illustrated by the fact that we are also active in South Africa.

Chris Richardson of Highveld Mushrooms approached Christiaens in 1999 for advice about how he could improve his compost quality. More than a year of preparation and fact-finding by Highveld resulted in the construction of a phase I indoor installation with a capacity of 400 tons of fresh compost per week. The set-up comprises 4 indoor tunnels of 400 tons with spigot flooring, filled from the top.

optimal and constant compost quality. We also had to consider the universal problem of odour nuisance. Building an indoor system was really the only viable option. Our mushroom production rose immediately by 15 to 20%. The constant compost quality also results in more constant mushroom production. Another advantage of the new installation is a reduction in labour costs."

The excellent experience with Christiaens has lead to another commission for the construction of 6 phase 2 / 3 tunnels.



2 October 2002

Christaens Reference

To Whom It May Concern:

Highveld Mushrooms recently commissioned Christaens to install a 4 bunker bulk composting system and overhead filter on our farm in Johannesburg, South Africa.

We were extremely impressed at the ability of Christaens to deliver advice and the equipment to schedule and at a great distance. We used Christaens to assist in the commissioning of the bunkers and were pleased at the technical knowledge and hard working, hands on nature of the consultants.

Our facility has been operational for over a year and we have had no real problems. Christaens have always been on hand to answer questions and assist where necessary.

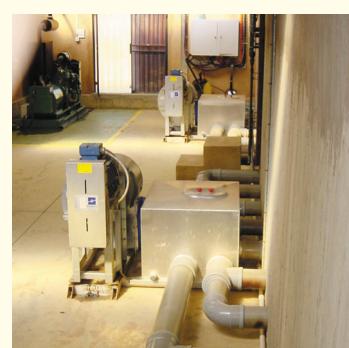
We have also installed the JansenKessel air handling units and climate controls. These have worked reliably improving our quality and yields.

Please feel free to contact myself should you require further information.

Yours truly,

CR Richardson  
CHAIRMAN

SALAD-FRESH FROM OUR HIGHVELD FARM



PHASE I AIRHANDLER

# ANIMAL MANURE PROCESSING



## OP DE BEEK ANTWERP, BELGIUM

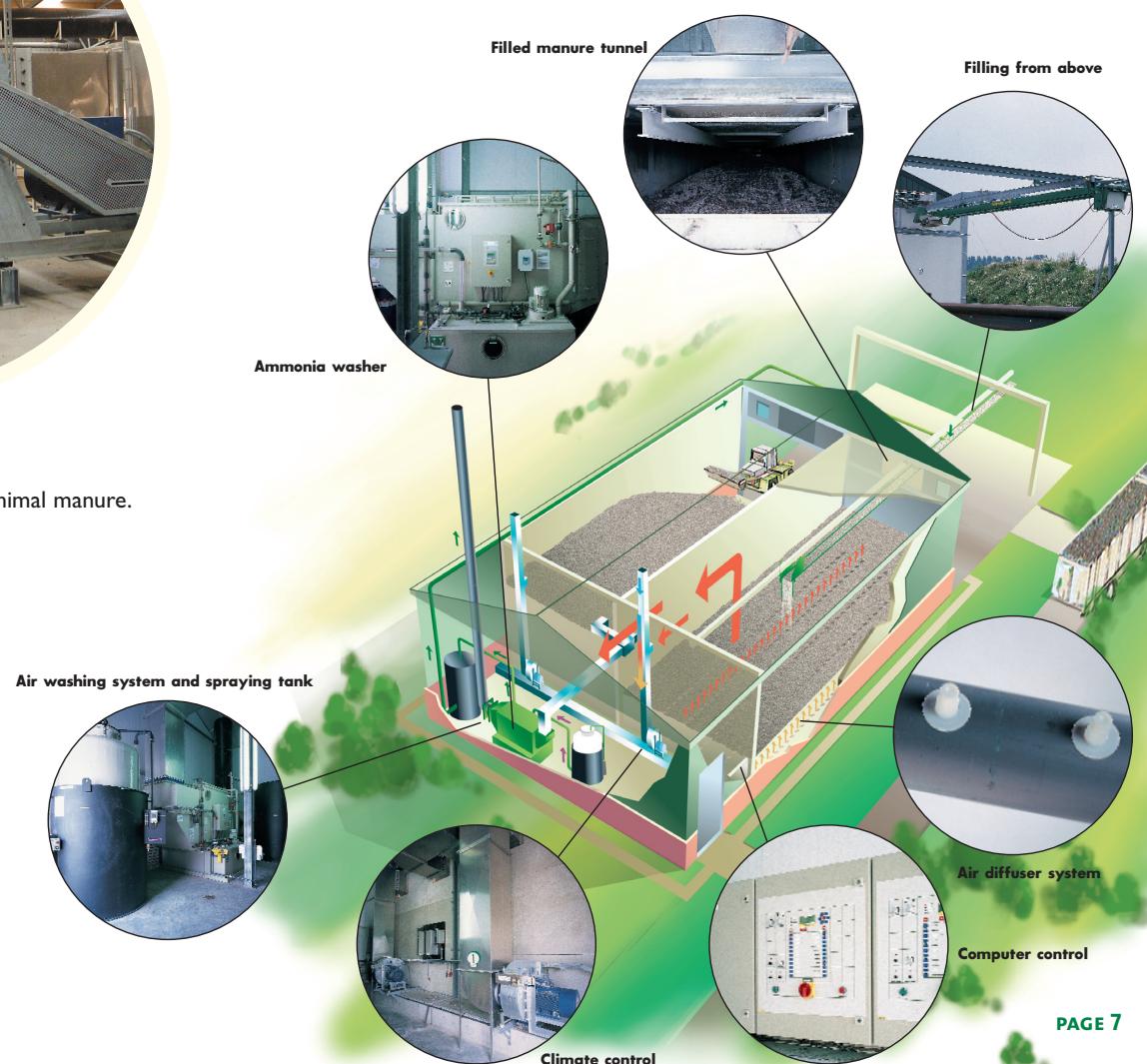
Construction of 5 composting tunnels of 40 x 8 metres.  
Including complete engineering, climate + control system, and process air washers. Annual production 100,000 tons



Process fan 75,000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr  
Annual production 100,000 tons of animal manure.

### Core demands:

- Germ-free product
- Dry matter approx. 60 %
- Export quality
- Stable





THE POWER OF COMBINED EXPERIENCE

## PROJECTS IN PROGRESS WORLDWIDE IN THE YEAR 2003

Biofunghi, Hungary  
Cabragh, Ireland  
Central Composting BC  
Thy Champignon, Denmark  
Grespan, Italy  
Linde KCA project MBA Linz Austria  
Walkro Blitterswijk, Holland  
Surayaya, Indonesia  
Banff, Canada  
Highveld, South-Africa  
Pilze Nagy, Hungary  
Holpol, Poland  
Hennewellner, Germany  
Eurocompost, Serbia

Phase 1 indoor en Phase 2/3 tunnels  
Phase 2/3 tunnels  
Phase 1 complete indoor  
Mushroom farm  
Mushroom farm, 12 growing rooms  
Machines for waste composting  
17 Phase 2/3 tunnels of 200 ton  
Phase 1 composting and 7 Phase 2 tunnels of 200 ton  
Sewage sludge composting  
6 Phase 2/3 tunnels of 200 ton  
4 tunnels for Pleurotes Substrate  
Extension for 3 Phase 2/3 tunnels  
5 tunnels phase 2/3 of 200 tons  
indoor and phase 2 for 450 ton/week

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