



CHRISTIAENS GROUP

The bulletin, what first started for the day of the open door and the exhibition is now a yearly returning issue. With these publications we try to give you an impression of projects worldwide constructed by the Christiaens Group.

In 2005 we revised our website (see www.christiaens-group.com), to the one which is now running. The website is adjusted to the new lay-out which is the same as our folders and our advertisements.

Looking at the situation in the mushroom industry we see that there is still a lot of investments going on. From entirely new projects to renovations.

THE POWER OF COMBINED EXPERIENCE!

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TVEDEMOSE CHAMPIGNON

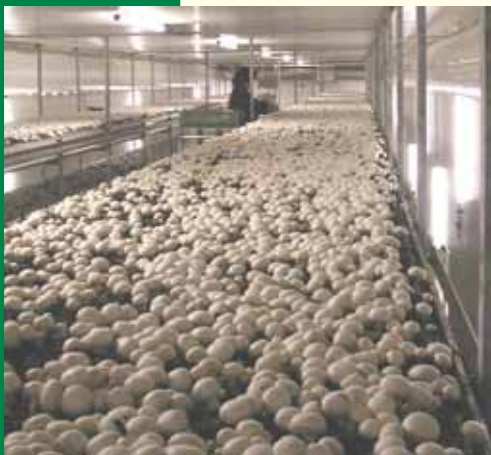
TVEDEMOSE CHAMPIGNON

Lundbø, Denmark

Jens and Kirsten started with this project in April 2003. The first room was filled in November 2003. The total building time was 6 months of which 9 weeks were needed to complete the part of the Christiaens Group. The rest was done by Danish building companies.

The reason that we have built a new growing facility are the new labour rules in Denmark and high labour cost (€20/hour for one picker). The biggest advantages on this farm is better quality of mushrooms, higher yields, better logistic system and the preparation for the expansion. The daily logistic on the farm had a big influence on the design of the growing rooms. Because of better working conditions we wanted to work with hydraulic lorries. We have adjusted the size of the room for working with these lorries.

The growing surface is 6 rooms of 360m², with the possibility for expansion to 12 rooms. The reason for choosing Christiaens Group is that they can do the total project and that we always have had a good service.



BIO-FUNGI KFT.

Budapest, Hungary

Bio-Fungi was producing Phase II compost in bags out of 3 tunnels of each 180 tons of Phase I compost, together with 3 small open air bunkers and an aerated floor. According the latest technology and regarding environmental requires Arpad Mutsy emphasized his expansion plans. Covering the complete prewet area and aerated floor building 3 indoor tunnels of 750 tons of Phase I compost a new state of art biofilter and biowasher (built with support of a Life Program) expanding the phase II/III facility. The investment program started September 2003 and most of the developments have been finished in December 2004. We started producing more compost since the middle of last year and increase our production slowly. From October 2004 we produce Phase III compost as well. The investments of the biowasher and biofilter are still going and the trial period will start June 2005.

At this moment the market needs partly Phase II and partly Phase III compost. Basically we produce 900-1000 tons of Phase I compost weekly. We have a personal relationship with the Christiaens Key Management. We choose the Christiaens Group because we have been very satisfied with our first investments with them and we have a good working experience with their Technical team. The advantages of the new project can be summarised: updated newest and most modern facility modern environmental execution new investment fulfil all the requirements of such as call BAT-technology (Best Available Technology)





SMITS-DERKS CHAMPIGNONS BV

Horst, Netherlands

In 1979 Smits-Derks started a mushroom growery. Since the year 2000 they have made an enormous change in the expansion. In 4 years they have build a new mushroom growing facility of 17 growing rooms with a total weekly capacity of 70.000 kg of mushrooms. The product is a small sized mushrooms which is harvested mechanically.

The reason for spreading out the expansion over 4 years was that only this way the production could increase with the same number of people. The level of mechanisation was upgraded to increase together with the growery.

Building with the Christiaens Group had a triple choice. First Christiaens Construction BV had the best quality of sandwich panel buildings at that moment. Second was that Smits-Derks wanted to work with the Fancom controller, which could be supplied by the Christiaens Group. Third was the possibility of a turnkey project. The new building has a lot of advantages. A larger working space in the whole growery, central processing of the mushrooms and a covered compost hall provided better working conditions. Labour cost could be reduced by a higher level of mechanisation. Building with sandwich panels is giving another advantage because of the higher insulations value of sandwich panels in comparison with the existing building.



CHAMPIGNONKWEKERIJ JACOBS BV

Kessel, Netherlands

In June 2004 John Jacobs finished the expansion of his mushroom farm. The expansion consist out of expanding the growing surface of the rooms from 770m² to 1.075m². The bed width changed from 1,34mtr to 1,60mtr and he went from 6 beds high to 7 beds high. The Christiaens Group delivered the shelving, the technical installation and the machinery. The total time needed for this expansion was 10 weeks.

Each week they rebuild one room. At this moment we have a weekly capacity of 80-95 tons of mushroom. This is depending on the growing schedule. The advantages of this expansion was the more efficient way of working, in the past he had 2 farms, and a higher quality and production.

The reason for choosing for he Christiaens Group were the good cooperation which we had in the past. Another advantage is building with one partner, if there are any troubles you have only one person to approach. Also the three companies have an efficient way of working together.





HIGHVELD MUSHROOMS LTD

Bryanston, South Africa

The latest Christiaens project that has been completed at Highveld Mushrooms (Pty) Ltd, is the building and commissioning of 6 x 200 ton Phase II and III tunnels. This facility was built in order to complement our 4 Christiaens Bunkers with overhead filling which we had been using for a few years. Chris Richardson told that the old Phase II tunnels needed to be replaced and the move to the modern Phase III approach lured him into the investment.

The complex was commissioned in September 2004 and took around 18 months to build. The long building time was a result of many of the heavy components being supplied locally and our no rush implementation approach. The move from conventional spawn running to continuous bulk Phase III is planned to take several months as not to rush the process and to learn at our own pace.

The capacity of the complex is 350 tons phase II compost per week and we are spawning a minimum of 180 tons phase III per week.

We have managed to reduce Phase II filling time from 12 hours to 3 hours per week, reduce spawning times from 8hrs to 2 hrs per week. The complex has also allowed us to extend the incubation time, reduce moisture loss and control temperatures properly. We are now also able to supply our satellite farm, Meadow Mushrooms with phase III from our facility. This gives us better control and less variability with having a remote site. Our choice to use Christiaens equipment was that our previous investments had been with them and we had found that their equipment delivered as promised. Our relationship with their staff and their commitment to us over time helped in our decision.





EUROKOMPOST BEOGRAD

Belgrade, Serbia

Eurokompost is the most modern compost production facility in Balkan Peninsula, located in Serbia close to the capital city Belgrade. Eurokompost provides quality compost to mushroom producers in the whole area.

The strategic goal of Eurokompost was/is and will be permanence for quality. In Christiaens Group we recognize a partner with the same mission. The monthly production capacity is 1.000 tons of Phase II, which is pressed in blocks. The total building time for this facility was nearly 2 years, which can be divided in circa 18 months construction work and 6 months for the equipment. The advantage is the possibility to control all key production processes with Christiaens Control equipment. Another advantage is the maximal subordination of the management team to the compost quality.





HEAD-END FILLING MACHINES

Especially for the mushroom cultivation industry we manufacture advanced filling equipment. The last couple of years Christiaens has built over a few hundred head-end filling machines all over the world. Last year we developed a head-end filling machine, especially for contract workers and farms with mechanical harvesting, which is able to weigh the exact amount of compost, which goes into the growing bed.

ELF FARM SUPPLIES PTY LIMITED

Sydney, Australia



Since 2001 we have built up a complete new Phase I and Phase II/III-facility. Rob Tolson started operating the Phase I facility in 2003, following by the start up of the Phase II/III facility in April 2004. From April 2005 we have increased the production of the Phase II/III facility to a total production of 420 tonnes of Phase III each week. The facility will help us to produce a product which is more consistent and of high quality because everything is now indoors. When we have completed our learning on how to compost indoors, we are very confident that the results will be improved compared to that of outdoor composting with the influence of the weather removed. The farms currently look like they will be able to maintain a production average over 38 kg per square metre for fresh market sales. The Christiaens Group has worked with us for many years to plan and execute the building of an indoor facility and we felt that they were the best place to supply all the different components that we needed. That is, the full package with prices negotiated on all items to keep the total cost within budget limits.



MERCAJUCAR S.C.

Albacete, Spain



The Mercajucar s.c. mushroom farm is part of a cooperation of approximately 50 mushroom growers in the Albacete area. In April 2004 we started to build a farm consisting out of 2 units of 12 growing rooms. The total-growing surface is 10.130². The Christiaens Group delivered the machinery for filling and emptying and the air handling system and computer controls for the complete farm. Also the Christiaens Group did the engineering for the technical installation of the farm.



MTS. VAN DOOREN

Liessel, Netherlands

The new growery has 4 growing rooms of 360m² and a working corridor in front of these rooms. Building a new growing facility has given Arie van Dooren some advantages. The new rooms are wider so this is easier working and giving higher picking results. At this moment we can also better control the climate in the rooms. The new rooms are giving us better purchasing prices at our suppliers because a higher quantity is needed. Visiting some other projects made by the Christiaens Group we noticed that the finishing touch is good. The other main issues for choosing the Christiaens Group were their way of thinking on future investments and price wise the Christiaens Group was given us a better deal.





Christiaens Group

THE POWER OF COMBINED EXPERIENCE

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS WORLDWIDE 2005

Champinter, Spain	5 Phase I bunkers / 14 Phase II/III tunnels
Global Progres a.s., Slovakia	Expansion Phase I and II facility
Hooijmans Compost BV, Netherlands	Phase I facility
Forest Fresh Mushrooms, South Africa	Phase I/II facility
Sterckx NV, Belgium	Expansion Phase II/III facility
Champignonkwekerij Smits-Derks BV, Netherlands	Expansion Growing surface
Tjaereborg Champignon A/s, Denmark	Phase I/II facility and growing rooms
Van Nieuwenhoven-Steijvers, Netherlands	Expansion 3 growing rooms
Sahar, Iran	4 Phase I bunkers/6 Phase II tunnels
Mehrchin/Arya, Iran	3 Phase I bunkers/4 Phase II tunnels
Funghi D'Oro, Italy	12 Growing rooms
Funghi di Quero Societa Agricola SS, Italy	12 Growing rooms
Mts. Thielen-Peeters, Netherlands	Renovation tunnel facility
Baltic, Lithuania	Machinery Phase II/III
Fungis, Poland	Machinery Phase II/III
Kompostpal, Poland	Blocking-press
Marina, Israel	7 Growing rooms
Marina, Israel	3 Phase 1 bunkers / 5 Phase II/III tunnels
Eng Chiau Bio-Technology, Taiwan	Mushroom farm

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