

## BioFoam®: PLA particle foam (further) expanding in Europe



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## **Presentation contents**



- Synbra Group Company introduction;
- BioFoam® project overview;
- BioFoam® processing:
  - PLA foaming;
  - PLA molding;
- BioFoam® properties:
  - Energy requirements and carbon footprint;
  - Mechanical and thermal properties;
  - Drop test results;
- Applications

# **Company introduction Synbra Group**

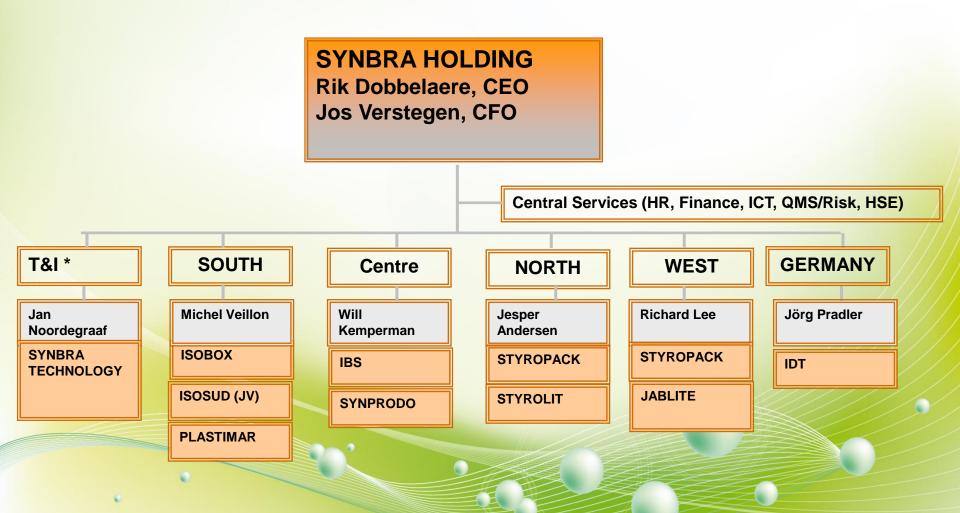


# SYNBRA is the leading producer and converter of Expanded Polystyrene ('EPS')

- with about 1.300 employees;
- with a turnover of about € 300 million;
- focus on Sustainable Insulation Systems (SIS) and Industrial Products & Solutions (IPS);
- innovative and vertically integrated through cluster Technology & Innovation;
- Dutch holding co-ordinates 6 Clusters and has 26 production locations in 6 countries.

# Organisation Management Committee





•T&I: TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

## 26 production locations in 6 countries



## Synbra's European coverage

- In general, transportation of EPS250 km is not profitable
- Majority of the business is local



- Synbra Technology supplies businesses with EPS beads
- Local BUs convert the beads into products
- Local BUs invest in product and application innovations
- Synbra Technology supports with material innovation

# **Broad range of EPS applications**



Sustainable Insulation Systems (SIS)		SIS) Industrial	Industrial Products & Solutions (IPS)		
Markets	End products	Markets	End products		
Roof insulation	Pitched, flat	Industrial/ Technical	Technical parts, Electronics	<b>V</b> (2)	
Wall insulation	Cavity, exterior	Food	Fish, Meat, Produce		
Floor insulation	Boards, systems	Horticulture	Seed trays		
Civil engineering	Road construction	Water filtration	Biostyr®		



# BioFoam® project overview



# **History BioFoam® project**





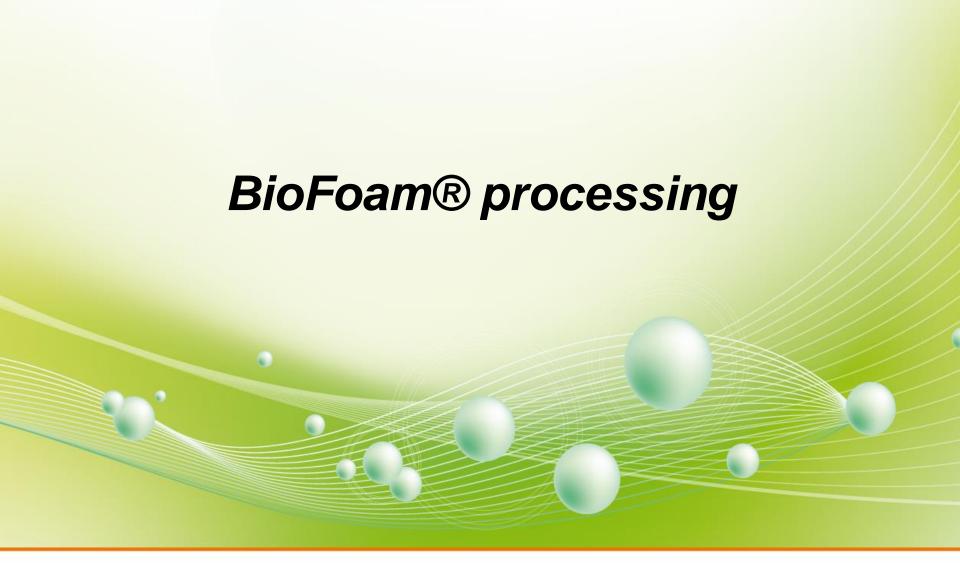
- Formal project started April 2006;
- R&D with Wageningen University WUR;
- Starting point: use own EPS pre-expansion & moulding;
- Use Polylactic acid (PLA); best results blowing with CO<sub>2</sub>;
- Shape moulding with biobased coating
- Integrated raw material PLA supply since 2011

# Biodegradable versus Biobased



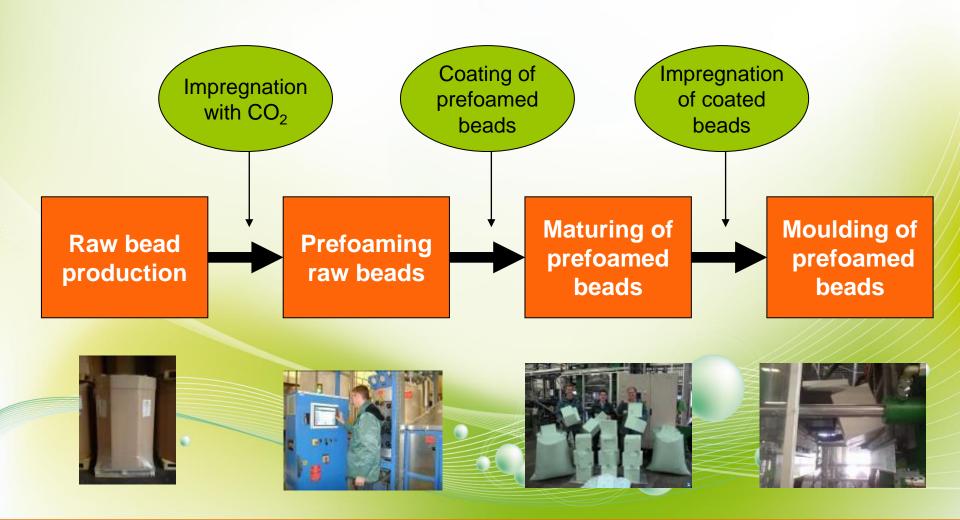
	Biodegradable	Non
		Biodegradable
BioBased	PLA / BioFoam Starch-based Polymers Poly Hydroxy Alkanoates (PHA) Poly Hudroxy Butyrate (PHB) Poly Butylene Succinate (PBS)	Vegetable Oil Based PU's Bio-PE Bio-PP Bio-PVC
Fossil- Based	Aliphatic/Aromatic polyester Poly Butylene Succinate (PBS)	Commodity Polymers  EPS / PP / PE /  ABS etc





# **PLA foaming**





# **PLA foaming**



- Prefoaming is done on a commercial EPS prefoamer;
- Density 17 g/l in one prefoam step, 13 g/l in 2 steps



#### **Compared to EPS:**

- Lower temperatures;
- Shorter cycle times.

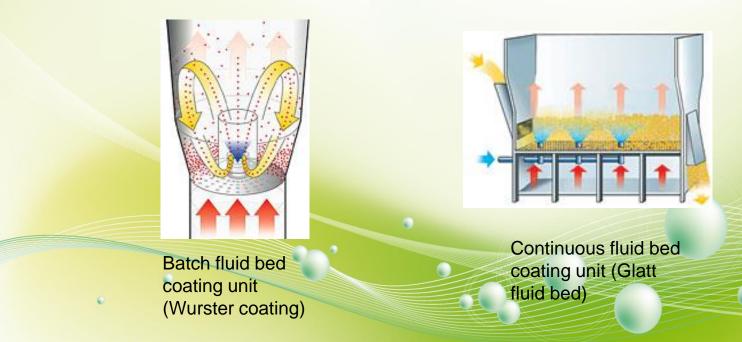
#### To deal with:

- CO<sub>2</sub> evaporates easily;
- Heat stability of PLA.

# **PLA** molding



- A special coating is applied to the prefoamed BioBeads to improve adhesion during moulding;
- Patented technology: WO 2008130226.



# **PLA** molding



- Moulding is done on a commercial EPS moulder;
- Similar process as with common EPS grades.



#### **Compared to EPS:**

- Lower temperatures;
- Longer cooling times.
- •To deal with:
- CO<sub>2</sub> evaporates easily;
- Heat stability of PLA.
- Crystallisation of PLA





## Validation and supporting information



- LCA verified by, AkzoNobel
  - Technology & Engineering Sust. Dev.Group; Sweden
  - Peer reviewed by Prof. Martin Patel-Utrecht Univ.
- Fire test Bean Bags Efectis
  - meets BS 5852 ( sigaret/match) crib 5
  - Meets Euroclass E fire classification
  - No halogens present
- Droptesting at Clemson University (South-Carolina);
- Compostability certification EN13432
- Passed EN117/118 Termite/pest and fungus tests
- C2C Silver certified by EPEA;













Environmental Protection Encouragement Agency





# Synbra LCA Tool v. 1.0 For Holistic Environmental Evaluation of BioFoam and EPS Foam

Based on Life Cycle Assessment Compliant With ISO 14 040 + 14 044 Standards

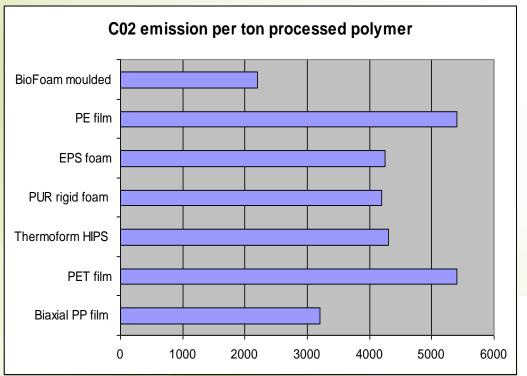
Prepared by Tobias Borén

AkzoNobel Sustainable Development, Sweden

Peer reviewed by Martin Patel, Utrecht University

October 8th 2010

# **Sustainability**

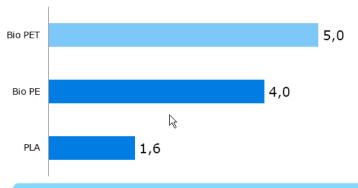


# Bi Foam



- PLA most sustainable polymer
- Bio-PE much less efficient than PLA

Fermentable sugars needed for production of bio polymers kg fermentable sugar per kg of polymer – cradle to gate



Bio-PE and Bio-PET need 2.5 – 3 times MORE biomass than PLA

#### Sources:

Life Cycle Assessment Compliant With ISO 14 040 + 14 044 Standards by TobiasBorénAkzoNobel Sustainable Development, Sweden.

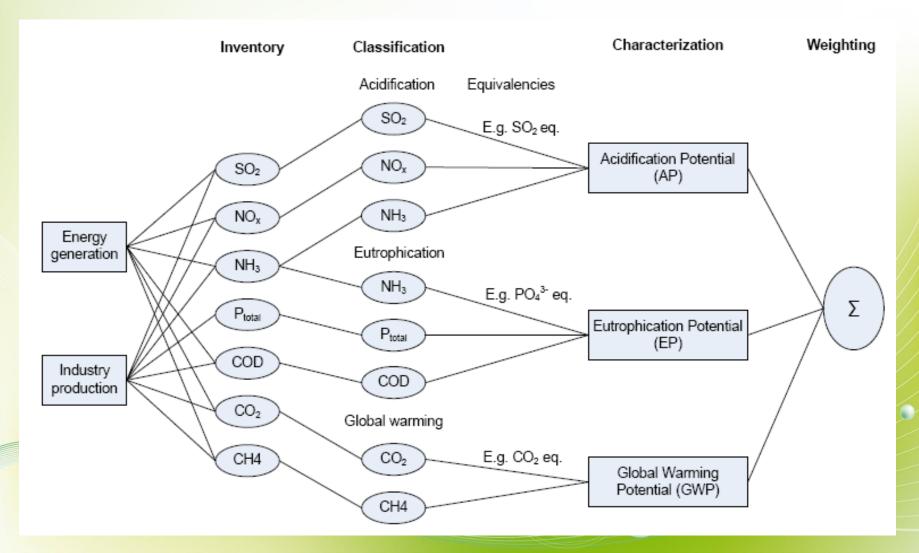
Peer reviewed by Martin Patel, Utrecht University October 8th 2010

PLA feedstcok: NON optimised sugar mill, with optimised ugar mill values are much lower

Other polymers LCA source Plastics Europe www.lca.plasticseurope.org

# LCA Methodology





# Comparison cradle-to-gate



Table: Functional traits of the different insulation materials defining the Functional Unit (F.U.)

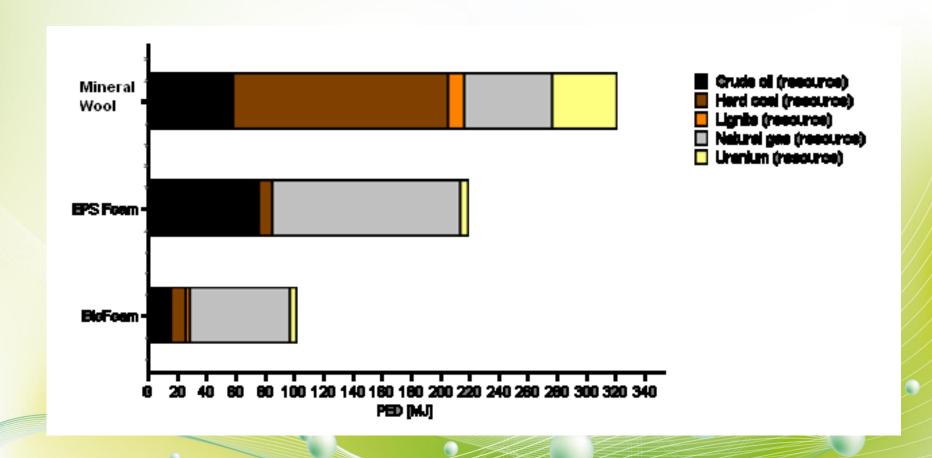
Material	Lambda [mM/m*K]	Density [kg/m³]	Mass [kg/F.U.]	Thickness [cm]
BioFoam	33	20	1,65	8,25
EPS	32	18	1,44	8
Mineral Wool	42	120	12,6	10,5

#### Table 2. Data sources

Material/Activity	Data source	
PLA	Purac/AkzoNobel/Synbra	
Carbon dioxide, liquid	EcoInvent	
PLA - BioFoam	Synbra (Wijchen)	
Polystyrene (expandable, PS exp.)	EcoInvent	
Pentane	PlasticsEurope	
PS exp EPS Foam	Synbra (Wijchen)	
PUR Foam	PlasticsEurope	
Mineral VVool	Ecolnvent	
Cardboard	BUWAL	

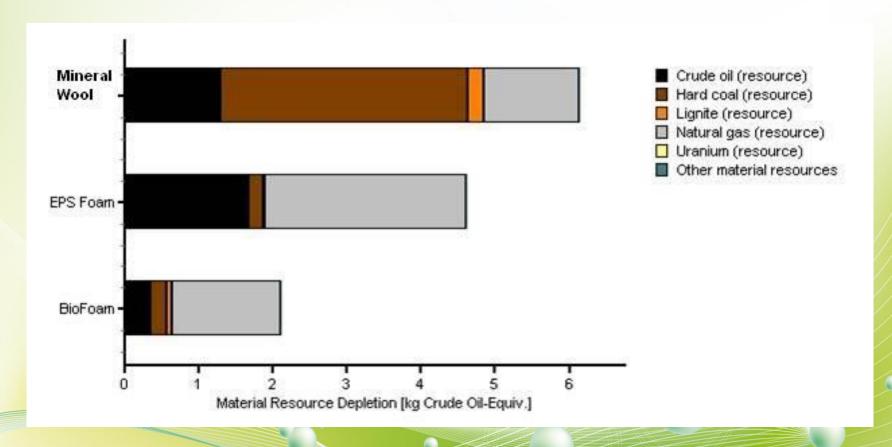
### Primary energy use for 1 m2 for Rc 2,5 insulation





### Crude oil eq. consumption for 1 m2 Rc 2,5 insulation

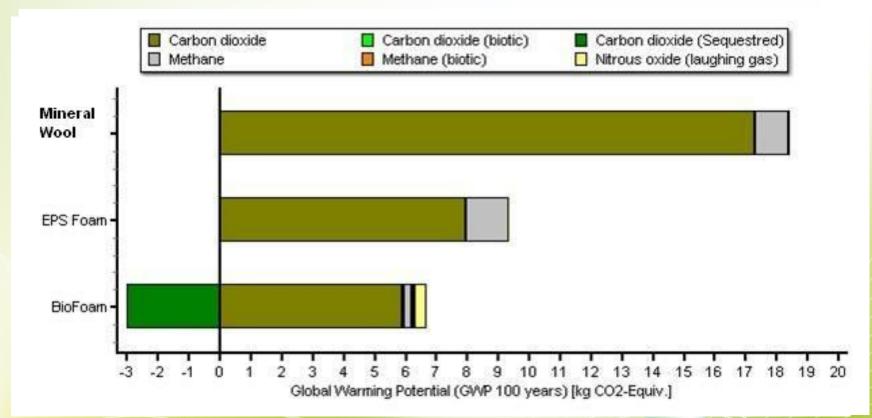




No additional green energy purchased

#### Carbon footprint for 1 m2 Rc 2,5 insulation



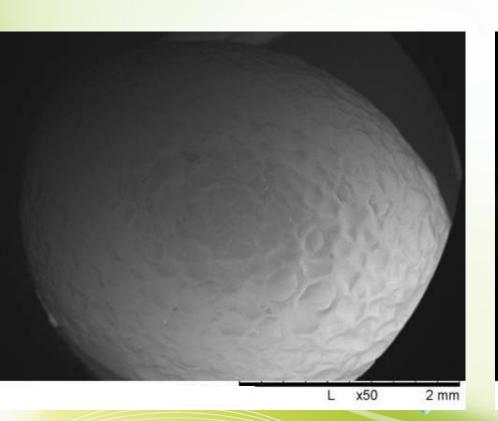


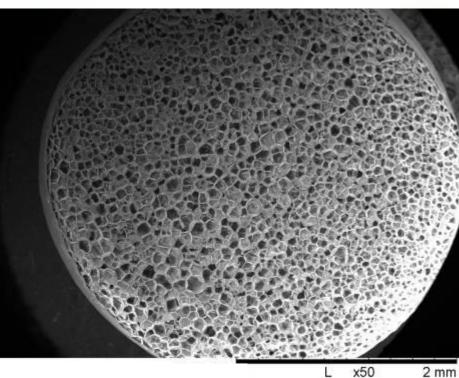
#### Conclusions:

EPS very good energy efficient insulant
BioFoam overall even better

## **PLA cell structure**





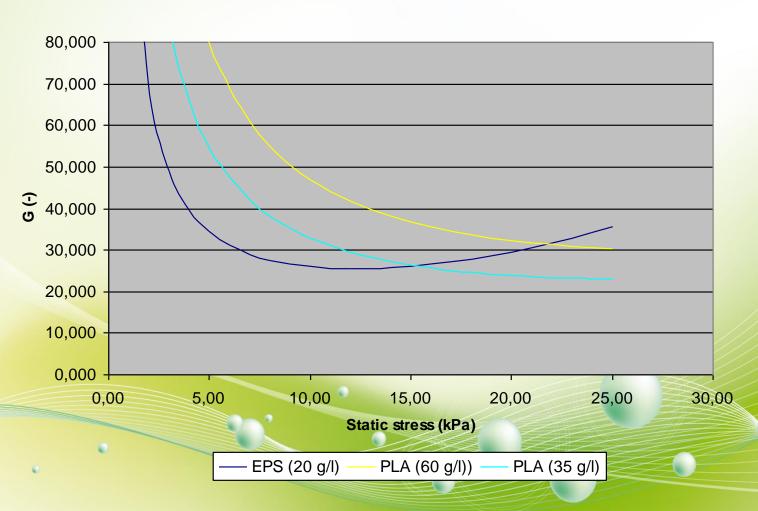


Structure looks very similar to EPS

# **Drop test results**



#### 1st drop (height/thickness = 10)



# **Composting results**

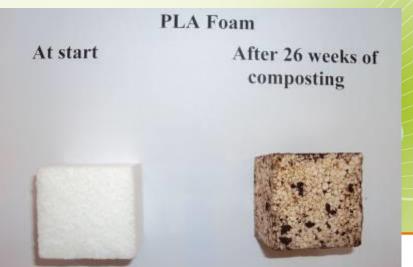




5 x 5 x 5 cm<sup>3</sup> BioFoam® blocks (various densities) disintegrate industrially completely at 70oC within 4 weeks.

No breakdown at ambient temperatures









# **BioFoam Moulded Packaging**



# Synprodo

Fish box
Pallets
LCD buffer
Childs seat
Kelvin box Cryostore





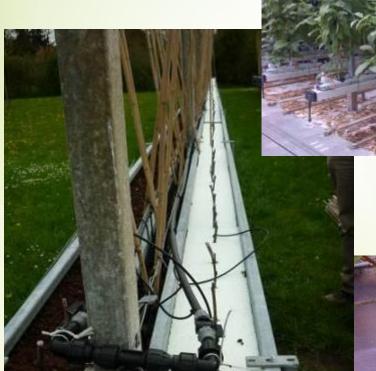
## **BioFoam Construction**



IsoBouw



BioFoam Horti
Synprodo



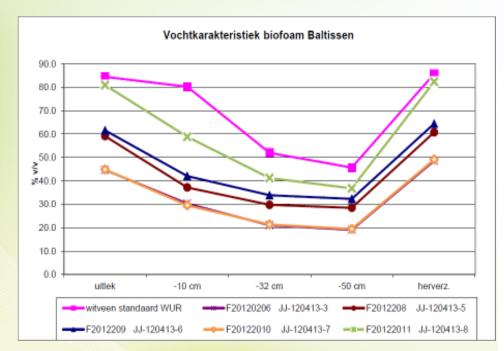


Seed trays
Soil improvement
Aqua culture

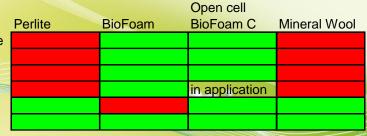
Permeable covers tree growing



## Substrate development











#### Duurzaam substraat op basis van BioFoam®

Ton baltissen@wur.nl

#### Achtergrond

Biomaterialen bieden binnen de land- en tuinbouw mogelijkheden voor de ontwikkeling van producten die met name in de afvalfase kosten kunnen besparen (kosten van afvalverwijdering en arbeid). Voor de substraat industrie kan BioFoam# Ingezet worden voor de ontwikkeling van nieuwe producten. Biofoam \* is een materiaal met. vergelijkbare eigenschappen als "piepschuim", maar gemaakt van hernieuwbare grondstoffen en biologisch afbreekbaar. Zeer Interessant lijkt de Inzet van Biofoam 6 als vervanging van veen. Veen is slechts in beperkte mate een hernieuwbare grondstof en daarom. zoekt de sector naar alternatieven voor veen, waarbij het substraat moet voldoen aan de hoge eisen die aan een groeimedium gesteld worden. Ook voor andere toepassingen (vulmiddel, afdek) kan Biofoam <sup>6</sup> geschöt zijn.

#### BioFoam ®

BioFoam® wordt geproduceerd uit PLA (Poly Lectic Acid) en is hernieuwbaar, biologisch afbreekbaar en composteerbaar. Daarnaast heeft BioFoam® een Cradle to Cradle<sup>IM</sup> certificant (zilver), Voor substraat toepassing wordt gewerkt aan poreuze BioFoam® structuren.



Fermion BioPostryP schure plant

#### Doelstelling

Ontwikkelen van inleuwe substraten op basis van BioFoam# die: «voldoen aan de wensen en eisen van de kwekers «geschikt zijn voor teelt van kwalitatief goede producten ·handhaving of verbetering van rendement geven









Diofosin als velniddel bii trareport:

#### Aanpak

Dit ontwikkelingsproject omvat de volgende onderdelen:

- -Ontwikkeling van poreus BioFoam® geschikt voor substraten
- «Ontwikkeling en productie van substraten op basis van BioFoam®
- «Testen van de nieuwe substraatmaterialen en producten.
- «Technische en economische evaluatie van de productie
- «Communicatie van de projectresultaten

#### Resultaten grondstof ontwikkeling

Binnen het project zijn diverse strategieën onderzocht om poreuze. BioFoem@korrels te maken. Via inmenging van wateroplosbare stoffen zijn Biofoam \* varianten gemaakt die: -Open cellen hebben en water kunnen opnemen ·Niet toxisch zijn

«Biologisch afbreekbaar en composteerbaar zijn »Diverse dichtheden en korrelafmetingen hebben



Resultaten substraat en producttesten

Belangriike karakteristieken van BioFoem® korrels in substraten worden onderzocht. Uit onderzoek

- -de stabiliteit van BioFoam® vergelijkbaar is met die van verse
- -door toevoeging van Biofoam \* de waterretentie gestuurd kan worden
- (pF curves, the figuur).
- BioFoam® niet toxisch is (Pytotoxibeits testen)

Den teeltproef in gotensysteem met diverse gewassen (spillen) met BioFoam® korrels als deel van het substraat toont aan dat de groei vergelijkbear is aan standaard. substraat.

Een proof met BioFoam® korrels als vulmiddel bij transport (lelie en phlox) gaf betere productkwalitet. dan praktijkverpakkingen.







Philip, restrict most file-from

#### Voorlopige Conclusies

- BioFoam® is een zeer interessant product voor de ontwikkeling van nieuwe substraatmaterialen
- · Biofoam is niet toxisch, heeft een stabiliteit vergelijkbaar aan verse kokos en biedt mogelijkheden voor het instellen van de waterretentie
- BioFoam®korrels zijn geschikt als vulmiddel bij transport van vaste. planten en boilen

Dit project in mogelijk gemaakt door da provincie Delderland en wordt uitgevrient door. Spelnodo, Suntrea Yachnologi, Walk-Plant & distablest Research en Walk-Proksijkonserzoek Plant en Ornavelop Edit.



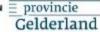
Profit@kondercost Plant & Oragoving Prof. von Slagterenweg 2 2161 DW Uses 0001 (0)052-463121

infotomen.gan@wwr.nl Mark page world



Technology by Packed with innovation





# Other applications

- Puncture detector
- Surf boards
- BioFoam HR ( grey)









#### **C2C Validation**



- C2C Silver Awarded since March 2011 BioFoam & Synterra PLA
- New scrutiny passed Feb. 2012





## **BioFoam® Awards**



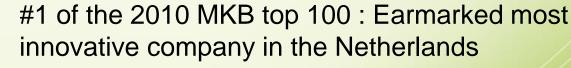


Winner of the Frost & Sullivan Technology Innovation Of The Year Award 2008 PLA polymerisation process



Winner 2009 gold sustainability medal awarded by the **Dutch Rubber and Plastics Federation** 







Third Price in Dutch 2010 packaging "De gouden Noot"



Winner 'Nederlandse Bouwprijs 2011' at construction exhibition in Utrecht (NL).



Winner of the Frost & Sullivan Technology Innovation Of The Year Award 2011 for BioFoam



Thank you for your attention

Questions?