

Introduction

The year 2022 was all about catching up on inspections that were delayed due to COVID19. This also meant that additional re-inspections had to be carried out, from the previous year and this year. All together, the new team of inspectors was able to carry out 47 inspections, a major achievement that also entailed restructuring communication and evaluation within RPP.

About RPP

Board

Mr. Guus van Berckel - VPN - representing growing media production
Mr. Bert von Seggern - GME (Growing Media Europe) – representing growing media production
Ms. Ilze Ozola - Latvia Peat Association – representing peat production
Mr. Tomi Koivula - GME (Growing Media Europe) - representing peat production
Mr. Jüri-Ott Salm - ELF (Estonian Fund for Nature) – representing environmental NGO
Mr. Hans Schutten - Wetlands International- representing environmental NGO

Committee of Experts (CoE)

Ms. Silke Kumar - peat production
Ms. Sabine Jordan - peatland science
Mr. Bernd Hofer - legislation - technical aspects
Mr. Ron Bleijswijk - certification
Mr. Nerijus Zableckis- environmental aspects- after-use

Secretariat

Mrs Maureen Kuenen – Executive Officer
Mr Hein Boon - Director RPP

2022 Activities and outreach RPP

RPP played in 2022 an active role in spreading the RPP-message and increase name recognition. Presentations were given and discussions were held with numerous organisations, including the Dutch Garden industry, Global G.A.P., the MERLIN-project, FNR Peat Substitutes Certification Scheme, IPS International Peatlands Society, IVG, VPN, Baltic Peat Producers Forum, Torf-und Humustag, Platform Sustainable Floriculture, “On the way to Planet Proof” and the role of RPP.

Position paper RPP-GME

During the Baltic Peat Producers Forum, a common position paper of GME and RPP was launched. A key-element in the position is that, when peat is used for growing media, this peat shall be produced responsibly.

Dutch Covenant on the Environmental Impact of Potting Soil and Substrates.

RPP was closely involved in the development of the Dutch Covenant. The aim of this covenant is to reduce the environmental impact of substrates in the chain. To achieve this reduction, efforts by the parties will include encouraging concerned entrepreneurs to make more use of renewable raw materials, and to use only certified peat. Besides the environmental impact, this also concerns nature restoration and the biodiversity of peatlands.

Part of the covenant relevant for RPP: *For 2025, the aim is for substrates containing peat raw materials to carry the RPP label (or equivalent) 100% of the time. RPP certification ensures limited*

impact on local biodiversity and the environment, and contributes to the restoration of natural areas.

The parties call on RPP to broaden its platform to maximise the use of the extensive body of published knowledge and experience of the peat-producing industry by:

- a. investigating the possibilities of contributing to the large-scale restoration of peatlands where greenhouse gas emissions are minimised and biodiversity is increased;*
- b. bringing about a change in the production of organic biomass grown under paludiculture conditions, such as Sphagnum species, using a step-by-step approach;*
- c. the rapid realisation of the after-use plan after the peat excavation has ended.*

The covenant was signed on November 18, 2022 by 15 parties from the horticultural and ornamental supply chain, The Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Minister for Climate and Energy Policy on behalf of the State of the Netherlands, knowledge organizations and a NGO.

Certification peat harvesting sites

The certifications are based on the fact that the company meets the requirements of RPP certification scheme for these location in concern.

The year 2022 resulted in 19 new certifications and 16 recertifications based on RPP-scheme version 3.0:

22/069	ERA Valduse Aktsiaselts	Hõreda
22/070	AS Jiffy Products Estonia	Ääsmäe, License No. HARm-044 - L.VV333391
22/071	Griendtsveen AG Germany	Svanaboda, Älmhult License No. 551-3516-13, area 0765-20-002-x
22/072	AS Tootsi Turvas, Estonia	Kasesoo, KMIN-080
22/073	Griendtsveen AG Germany	Edeweicht Vehnemoor - Flache Hermann, License No. BA24/77C
22/074	Griendtsveen AG Germany	Wiesmoor Drosselweg, License No. IV-60.2-Boab.Wilshusen
22/075	Jiffy Unitorf, Sweden	Liatorp, License No. 551-7604-18
22/076	Jiffy Unitorf, Sweden	Sannaböke, License No. 551-4747-15
22/077	Jiffy Unitorf, Sweden	Sejle Myr, License No.551-11947-05
22/078	AS SEDA, Latvia	Taures Purvs, License No. CS19ZD0134
22/079	Van der Knaap Eesti OÜ, Estonia	Tuurapera, LicenseNo. L.MK.PÖ-46024
22/080	Neova Oy, Finland	Sammalneva (Jyväskylä)
22/081	AS Tootsi Turvas, Estonia	Lavassaare II, license No. KMIN-070
22/082	Neova AB, Sweden	Store mosse License No. 523-9242-01
22/083	Neova Oy, Finland	Iso-Rydistönkeidas-Heitonneva, License No. LSY 2004 Y 390 and LSY 2008 Y 328
22/084	Neova Oy, Finland	Kotoneva, License No. LSY 2005 Y 69
22/085	Neova Oy, Finland	Nanhiansuo-Vittassuo, License No. ESAVI 215/2014/2 and ESAVI 481/2019
22/086	ERA Valduse Aktsiaselts, Estonia	Tõnumaa, License No. Rapm-022
22/087	Mullmaster AB, Sweden	Hallaryd, license No. 551-21-22-16
22/088	Mullmaster, Sweden	Braefall, license No. 551-7658-19

Inspection peat harvesting sites

Inspections are carried out by independent inspectors by means of a desk assessment and on-site inspection checking compliance to the Principles and Criteria of the RPP certification scheme. Both assessments are validated by a second inspector. Depending on the results of the inspections, the inspector gives a recommendation for certification. Certification processes are evaluated by the secretariat under responsibility of the Board. In case of any uncertainties or objections, this is handled by the Committee of Experts and the Board.

Chain of Custody

The Chain of Custody is based on mass balance to make trade of peat feasible. Peat is often shipped in bulk, comes from different sources and is blended for quality purposes. At participating companies, the volumes of RPP-peat sold and the volumes of RPP-peat produced or sourced are checked administratively. [Full explanation of the Chain of Custody](#) can be found on the RPP-website (2nd block).

Companies that want to trade RPP-certified peat or use it for the production of growing media, can participate in the RPP Chain of Custody choosing option 1 or 2. Participating companies agree to a yearly inspection of data and figures to check the volumes of incoming and outgoing RPP certified peat. Companies participating in the RPP Chain of Custody in 2022 are listed in the figure below:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Registration #</u>	<u>option</u>	<u>Info activity</u>
Griendtsveen	RPP-16-0100	1	Producer
LENSLI	RPP-16-0103	2	Producer and User
Mokura	RPP-17-0106	1	Producer
Agaris	RPP-17-0107	2	Producer and User
Kudras Energija	RPP-17-0108	1	Producer
Nevema BV	RPP-17-0112	1	Producer and trade
Stender(Euflor)	RPP-17-0113	1	Producer and User
Kraver AS	RPP-17-0114	1	Producer
Bolpeat	RPP-18-0115	1	Trade
Compo	RPP-18-0117	2	Producer and User
Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH Geeste	RPP-18-0119	1	Producer and User
Nord Agri	RPP-20-0120	1	User
Hortimed	RPP-20-0121	1	User
Kekkilä BVB	RPP-20-0122	1	Producer and User
Kalloveen	RPP-20-0123	1	Trade
PokonNaturado	RPP-21-0124	1	User
Biolande	RPP-21-0125	1	User
ICA substrates	RPP-21-0126	1	User and trade
G&C materials	RPP-21-0127	1	Trade
Freepeat BV	RPP-22-0128	2	User
Meegaa substrates New BV	RPP-22-0129	2	User
Legro potgrondbedrijf BV	RPP-22-0130	2	User
Legro Mushroom Casing Solutions BV	RPP-22-0131	1	User

Inspection Chain of Custody

Inspections for the Chain of Custody in 2022 has been performed for the year 2021 by the RPP-secretariat on location and/or online. There were no significant irregularities. Roughly 50% of production under RPP is actually marketed as RPP certified peat.

In 2022, the use of RPP-certified peat in growing media continued to grow. In the Netherlands the percentage of certified peat is almost 50% and in Germany the share is 39%. This percentage is expected to grow the coming years due to the signing of the Dutch covenant. Nine additional companies registered for the Chain of Custody in 2021-2022 and started to market RPP certified peat in 2022.

Financial results

Gains and Losses - Foundation RPP	Profit/Loss 2022	Profit/Loss 2021
<u>Income</u>		
Contribution supporters + CoC	12.612	16.150
Annual fee locations	84.550	63.900
Inspections and release of pre-payments	88.434	30.570
Other	-	-
Total:	185.596	110.620
<u>Expenses</u>		
Salaries and social securities	113.561	50.695
Other organisation costs		
Travel and accomodation	4.142	760
Study	120	11.870
Board and Committee of Experts	15.600	21.284
Certification	41.410	19.042
Other	5.620	3.400
Total:	180.453	107.051
Result	5.143	3.569
<i>summary of audit financial statement by Blaak & Breederveld accountants Naaldwijk, NL</i>		