




Nature's
Pride

MAKING THE WORLD
healthier and more sustainable
TOGETHER



Entrepreneurship is all about identifying opportunities and finding ways to translate those chances into new ventures and new possibilities. In fact it is about pushing the bar to new heights. What if we are able to put all this entrepreneurial energy into reaching a higher level of sustainability?

Of course, one way to be more sustainable is to scale down our activities but it means that less people are able to eat very attractive and healthy fruit and vegetables. With an increasing population and more and more obesity this is not the way an entrepreneur should think and it's certainly not the way Nature's Pride thinks.

We see it as our challenge and entrepreneurial responsibility to put all our energy into pushing the bar and setting new standards to protect the planet to make sure that current and future generations have good living conditions and can enjoy attractive and healthy food.

In this annual report you will find a summary of our sustainable business activities in 2019. Please feel free to join us on this journey and give us feedback when you think we can push the bar even further!

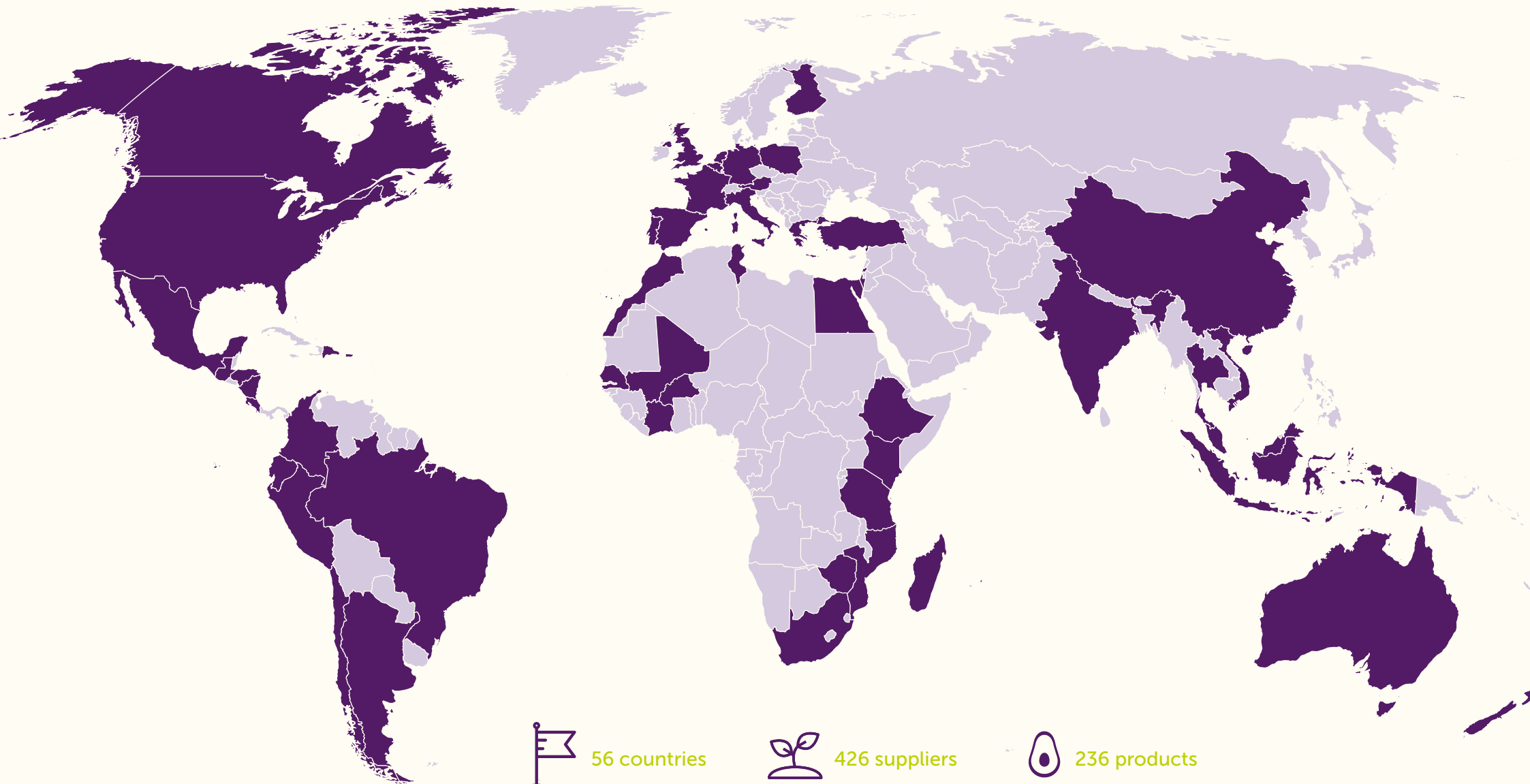
Fred van Heyningen
CEO Nature's Pride

Our **MISSION**

"We are dedicated to set the standard in the value chain with tasteful products, quality, high service, innovations and our contribution to a better world."

**Nature's
Pride**

OUR DEDICATED PARTNERS WORLDWIDE





SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PLAN 2023



We are taking action on the UN sustainable development Goals.

Vision
MAKING THE WORLD HEALTHIER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE



GOOD BUSINESS



IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS



100% Social Monitoring & top themes Beyond Social Compliance



Healthy lifestyle and good living environment



REDUCE FOOD WASTE



Reduction of food loss



100% food loss valorised within the food chain



REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



100% recyclable or reusable packaging



Reduce CO₂ emissions by 1/3



Responsible water use in our growing areas



GOOD BUSINESS

Commercial success and sustainability are intrinsically linked for us. We believe that Good Business is the most sustainable contribution to a better world.

This entails long-term partnerships, attention for people and the environment, sharing knowledge, and investing and growing together. We help our customers by constantly innovating to become a commercial success. This commercial success allows us to work together to continuously improve our value chain. Vice versa, sustainability also translates into benefits for our business operations.



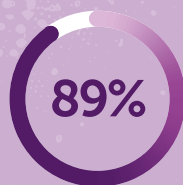
highlights of 2019

SUMMARY OF OUR PROGRESS



100% Social Monitoring & top themes Beyond Social Compliance

- 89% socially verified or from low risk countries. Working towards 100% socially monitored produce



Healthy Lifestyle and good living environment

- 150.000 euros donated to projects
- New strategy Nature's Pride Foundation
- Jasper Wegman and Marjan de Bock joined the Board and Advisory Board



Reduction of food loss

- Working with growers to improve soil quality and crop protection
- Started pilot in Germany and Denmark with Apeel Sciences to extend shelf life of avocados



100% of food loss valorised within the food chain

- Increase of 12 million more unsold avocados retained for human consumption then in 2018



100% recyclable or re-usable packaging

- Sustainable packaging policy
- Disposal guide for consumers
- Reduction of plastic packaging saving 162.289 kg or 17 full garbage trucks of plastic
- Phasing out carbon black plastic



Reduce CO₂ emissions with 1/3

- Total CO₂ emissions increased with 6,4% because of increase in volume traded
- Average CO₂ emission per product decreased with almost 4,7% compared to our baseline (2017)



Responsible water use in our growing areas

- Water policy published
- Partnership with GlobalG.A.P. to pilot SPRING
- 25 fields with SPRING water audit in Peru and Chile



SOCIAL COMPLIANCE

Our goal

100% Social Monitoring by 2020 & top themes beyond compliance



We are taking action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH





SOCIAL COMPLIANCE | Our activities

Supplier Information Management (SIM)

During 2019 we have continued in developing and improving our usage of the SIM portal by optimizing workflows, adding new elements to trace and transforming our supply chain to a product chain. This has allowed us to become more efficient in guiding our suppliers in becoming socially certified and / or making improvements, it has increased transparency and therefore we have better insights into continuous improvement of labour conditions at the farms and packhouses of our suppliers.

Smallholders

The closer we come to achieve the 100% socially compliant goal the more challenges we encounter, and one of them is the social certification monitored of smallholders. This year within the Sustainability Initiative Fruit and Vegetable ([SIFAV](#)) we have been working together to find a pragmatic solution for assessing labour conditions at smallholder farmers and thus being more inclusive towards smallholders. We will continue this work in 2020.

Update of our Social Policy

Our journey towards reaching 100% socially compliant produce has also directed us in revisiting our social policy to one that is more clear and inclusive. We have introduced the Stepping Stone Guideline for new suppliers and financial support for those suppliers who struggle in the implementation of a social certification due to monetary means. At the same time we are releasing a self-assessment questionnaire that will allow us to increment the transparency in our supply chain.

Beyond Compliance

We are creating dashboards per supplier/product allowing our commercial teams to have a quicker and more transparent view of what are the social challenges at the supplier level, what are the farms, packhouses or products that still need to become socially certified and what is the status per supply/product chain.



SOCIAL COMPLIANCE Impact

At the end of 2019 we have been able to purchase 89% socially verified produce or low risk countries. Working towards 100% socially monitored produce.

89%





Our goal

Nature's Pride Foundation:
Healthy Lifestyle and Good
Living Environment



We are taking action
on the UN Sustainable
Development Goals

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING





Jasper Wegman

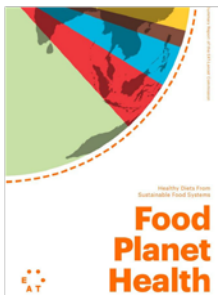


Marjan de Bock



FOUNDATION | Our activities

In 2019, we carried out several important institutional updates. The Foundation gained access to a wealth of knowledge and experience when Jasper Wegman and Marjan de Bock joined the Foundation's Board and Advisory Board, respectively. Also, the statutes of the Foundation were updated to better reflect changing times.



What we eat matters. At the beginning of the year the report 'Food. Planet. Health.' from the Eat Lancet Commission was published. This publication showed with absolute clarity the inextricable link between a healthy lifestyle and a flourishing living environment. Awareness around climate change reached a tipping point in 2019 and the link between a healthy diet and a healthy planet became a global priority.

It was in this context that the Foundation elaborated its strategy for the period 2019-2023. The coming years the Foundation will prioritize projects that help communities to eat and live healthier and that mitigate the impact of food production on the environment. It will do so by staying close to its origin and core competencies: the Foundation will actively pursue synergies with Nature's Pride and will concentrate on countries where networks already exist.

The Foundation supports projects that benefit general well-being in communities. We believe that we can efficiently reach this goal if we tap into Nature's Pride's worldwide network of dedicated growers, clients, and other partners. Working through these already existing networks will enable us to maximize our impact.



Reach of the Foundation in 2019

The Foundation donated 150.000 euros, amongst others to the following projects



Vegetable gardens on public schools



REACH
210

(Teachers and pupils)



Sustainability and better learning environment at public schools



REACH
4000

(Teachers and pupils)



School and medical centre Kuychi



REACH
4500

(Pupils and parents)



Teacher skills and better learning environment at public schools



REACH
1050

(Teachers and pupils)

Total reach of persons in 2019

REACH
9760



PARTNER
DOT Fruits



GOAL
Improving the living conditions of
employees and their families



REACH
300 employees of DOT Fruits
and their families



FUNDED BY
Nature's Pride

NATURE'S PRIDE | Project

Dominican Republic

Employees improve their well being



In 2019, our mango grower in the Dominican Republic ran again the successful program in which employees earn points and redeem them for social benefits.

This year the program focused specifically on better health and living condition. The points, which employees earn on top of their normal salary, could be redeemed for nutritious food supplies and construction materials.

Our grower, DOT Fruits, did a baseline analysis before the season and recorded how their employees' health evolved during the season. The records show a decrease of anaemia, which is a low volume of red blood cells which is caused for example by a lack of iron in nutrition. Also, many employees fortified their homes by building cement walls and better roofs. This will protect them better during storms and heavy rains that often occur at the Dominican Island during certain periods of the year.





PARTNERS

Ivoire Agreage, LONO,
Koppert Biological Systems



GOAL

Less waste, higher income



REACH

3780 people



FUNDED BY
Nature's Pride



NATURE'S PRIDE | Project

Ivory Coast

Two (fruit) flies in one swoop



In Ivory Coast fruit flies are a big problem for mango growers. The fruit flies attack the fruit, causing a large part of the harvest to be lost. Since last year, Nature's Pride and its grower, Ivoire Agreage, have been working together on a sustainable control of the fruit flies and better soil conditions. The aim is to improve quality, which leads to a higher income for farmers and employees of Ivoire Agreage.

The approach is two-fold: on the one hand, a biological spray from a Dutch company named Koppert is used to repel the fruit flies. On the other hand, with the support of the Ivorian NGO LONO, an expert in biotechnology and composting, compost boxes have been installed at the growers. Previously, growers left rejected, decaying fruit under the mango trees. This attracts fruit flies. Now this rotten fruit, together with other farm waste (e.g. chicken manure), is composted in a box called KubeKo. The KubeKo works on solar energy. The compost is used to enrich the soil. The project literally hits two flies in one swoop: the flies are repelled and the soil is improved, which benefits the quality. Better fruit means more income for growers and employees.





PARTNER

Kuychi – Niños del Arco iris



GOAL

Good education and medical care for
Peruvian children



REACH

4200 people



FUNDED BY

Nature's Pride Foundation



FOUNDATION | Project

Peru

Kuychi: Peruvian children get a good start in life

In a remote area in the Peruvian Andes there is a magical place. A school and medical center called Niños del Arco Iris – Kuychi. This place has been 'home' for thousands of people over the past 18 years. 200 children go to school here and 4000 people receive medical care and support.

Where you are born influences, to a large extent, your chances at a good life. Whether this is rural Peru or Western Europe, this makes a big difference. Kuychi gives children in this remote area in Peru a chance to get a good start in life by providing them and their families integrated educational, health, and nutrition support.





PARTNERS

Roy Agri Maroc, Fondation Sanady



GOAL

A sustainable learning environment
with more culture and science



REACH
4000 children



FUNDED BY
Nature's Pride Foundation

FOUNDATION | Project

Morocco

Interactive lessons stimulate Moroccan children's curiosity

The Kenitra region in northwest Morocco, where Nature's Pride buys blueberries, is a poor area. Schools have no means to teach topics other than basic reading, writing and math. This program, implemented by a partnership of the Nature's Pride Foundation, Roy Agri Maroc and the local NGO Sanady, is aimed at giving the students a richer and more varied range of lessons that will contribute to a better understanding of the world around them.

Creating sustainable learning environments in schools is another important element of the programme. The schools involved take measures to achieve the internationally recognized 'Eco-label'. To this end, they improve factors such as management of waste, water and energy, and they look into the nutrition and biodiversity situation in the schools and their environments.





PARTNERS

Agrícola Cerro Prieto, Agrícola Don Ricardo, Horizonte Corporativo



GOAL

Healthy food, knowledge about nature and sustainability



REACH

600 children, 20 teachers, many parents



FUNDED BY

Nature's Pride Foundation



FOUNDATION | Project

Peru

Peruvian Children harvest a healthy lunch

To improve children's nutrition, our Peruvian growers Agrícola Cerro Prieto and Agrícola Don Ricardo have planted vegetable gardens at four public schools. Cerro Prieto has done this near Chiclayo, north of Lima; Don Ricardo in Ica, south of Lima.

In addition to money, growers have also invested considerable time and knowledge in the projects. Grower experts contributed ideas about suitable types of fruit and vegetables and the installation of drip irrigation. Together with the children, their parents and teachers, volunteers from the growers have transformed neglected plots of land from the schools into vegetable gardens. Spinach, cauliflower, broccoli, snow pea, herbs, mango, avocado, bananas and passion fruit are now grown at schools.





REDUCTION OF FOOD LOSS

Our goal

Reduction of food loss in
our value chains



We are taking action
on the UN Sustainable
Development Goals

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION





REDUCTION OF FOOD LOSS | Our activities

Good agricultural practices and better soil quality help combat food waste at the source. Nature's Pride has an agri-expert that actively works with our growers. Among other things, he works on more biological crop-protection and healthy soils. The better the quality at the beginning of the value chain, the less waste there will be throughout the chain, including the activities within our facilities.

Our strategic partnership with Apeel Sciences is aimed to reduce food waste by extending the shelf life of our fruit. Since 2019 Apeel's plant-derived technology is applied to our avocados in a pilot with retailers in Denmark and Germany. The sprayed on coating on the avocados slows down respiration and reduces water loss, resulting in longer lasting produce of higher quality. With extended shelf life of our fresh fruits we can have a significant effect on food being wasted downstream in our value chains.



We are using a new supply and demand planning tool for mango and avocado. Weekly we are able to forecast supply and demand 13 weeks ahead. This allows us to act in a timely matter when there is excess stock by initiating promotions or to do spot buys when there are shortages in the market. This leads to an optimal stock within minimal aging of products. This leads to less food loss and less unnecessary and unsustainable transportation of product.



REDUCTION OF FOOD LOSS | Impact

Retain food for human consumption

Comparing 2019 to the year before shows a significant improvement in the goal to retain more food for human consumption. Waste that could not be retained for human consumption is reduced from 6,5% to 4,4% of sourcing volume.



2018

2019

Food loss - not for human consumption





REDUCTION OF FOOD LOSS | Case

The Apeel effect

'Apeel' has the promise to reduce food waste at European retail level with more than 50%. The effect on reduction of food waste at the consumer level could be even higher.

A third party verified life cycle assessment (LCA) on avocados with Apeel was conducted at the retail level in the United States. This included production and application and showed that significant reductions can be achieved on total energy, water, land use, etc. that are connected to growing these products by reducing food waste through use of Apeel's coating in the value chain.

With Nature's Pride's position potentially millions of products can be saved from being wasted. With retaining the fruit for human consumption we expect to significantly lower total water use, land use and the CO₂ footprint associated with growing and delivering high quality and healthy fruit to consumers in the European market.



Snapshot from experiment showing the difference between product with and without Apeel usage - 2019.



FOOD LOSS VALORISATION

Our goal

100% food loss valorised
within the food chain



We are taking action
on the UN Sustainable
Development Goals

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION





FOOD LOSS VALORISATION | Our activities

We evaluated our food waste streams within our facility to find the best valorization, within the permitted standards of food safety and other legislation. In 2019 most damaged avocados were turned into guacamole. In this way we retain the nutrients and taste for human consumption.

Last year we changed our sorting and storage processes, enabling us to consistently collect and sell avocados that are not in accordance with the specifications of our clients. These products are still completely suitable for human consumption and now go to guacamole factories and are donated on a consistent basis to the Food Bank. In addition we made steps in replicating this success to our mangoes and have researched other avenues of valorization. We are looking to expand this in 2020 and utilize this other way of valorization to other product groups.

In 2019 we also researched and took steps toward diverting our lower value food loss from use in biogas plants to the animal feed sector. This will retain the nutrients for the food chain.



FOOD LOSS VALORISATION | Impact

In 2019 over **70%** of unsold avocados was retained for human consumption



In 2019 we donated over **350.000** avocados to the Food Bank





FOOD LOSS VALORISATION | Case

Together with our passionate employees, we improved our processes to sort out products with a short shelf life for use in our company restaurant.

In good cooperation with our excellent chef and all cooks, this initiative resulted in even tastier dishes while simultaneously fighting food loss within our operations altogether. Our colleagues in the picture have started this initiative and we are proud of their dedication and hard work.





SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING

Our goal

100% recyclable and / or re-usable packaging



We are taking action
on the UN Sustainable
Development Goals

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION





SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING | Our activities

We find it very important to pack our products sustainably. We rather do not use plastic and use as less packaging material as possible. Nevertheless, we should not forget that packaging has an important function of protection and extension of shelf life of the product.

As a starting point, at the end of 2018, we developed a sustainable packaging policy together with the [LCA Centre](#). This policy explains which factors play a role in deciding on a certain packaging material and also contains a list of desired and non-desired materials.

In 2019 we changed our plastic punnets for many of our products to carton punnets and we changed our plastic insert sheets for our boxes to a paper insert sheet. We also phased out black carbon plastic as packaging material because carbon plastic is not recognized by the Dutch garbage sorting installations currently. This black packaging is therefore often used for low-value recycling or is incinerated.

Furthermore we analysed our packaging materials against our sustainable packaging policy. Results from this analysis show that we can make further improvements in terms of phasing out plastic, transitioning from multi- to mono-material packaging to improve recyclability and to stop using materials that are not well or non-recyclable. Based on these results we made a plan for more sustainable packaging 2020.

At Nature's Pride we find it very important that our packaging material is thrown away correctly and that materials can be re-used after recycling. As each country, municipality has their own way of sorting, recycling and usage of logos, it is difficult to communicate this on the packaging. Therefore, for our top 10 customer countries, we have selected the most important websites in terms of sorting and recycling consumer waste. We will refer to this disposal guide on our packaging.





SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING | Impact

Phasing out (black) plastic punnets and insert sheets

2017 - 2019



56.374.925

Plastic punnets & insert sheets phased out

562.100 kg
plastic saved

19%

MORE SUSTAINABLE
(PRIMARY) PACKAGING &

30%

MORE SUSTAINABLE
(SECONDARY) PACKAGING



A TOTAL OF **61 full**
garbage trucks
of plastic

2019



5.683.332

Plastic punnets
phased out

51.150 kg
plastic saved

2,5%

MORE SUSTAINABLE
(PRIMARY)
PACKAGING



7.360.174

Plastic insert
sheets phased out

111.139 kg
plastic saved

19%

MORE SUSTAINABLE
(SECONDARY)
PACKAGING



A TOTAL OF **17 full**
garbage trucks
of plastic

Additionally, with
our suppliers,
we have;

phased
out **4.6 million**
black plastic
punnets in
2019

4%

MORE SUSTAINABLE
(PRIMARY)
PACKAGING



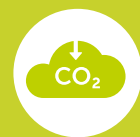
SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING | Case

The importance of close collaboration in the supply chain

Working closely together in the value chain towards more sustainable packaging is very important. By cooperating closely with our South African supplier of our baby vegetables, Yukon, we found that they used packaging materials which were the most sustainable option for their local clients.

Take for example black carbon plastic, a packaging material that is made of a high percentage of recycled content and very well recyclable in South Africa. Unfortunately this is not the case in Europe (yet). Additionally their product is highly perishable, so the choice of packaging makes a huge impact on the product shelf life. Embarking on this journey together, we looked at more sustainable packaging materials that were available locally and well recyclable in Europe. For the moment we were able to replace the carbon black plastic with a transparent plastic punnet. We are currently doing extensive shelf-life testing with FSC certified carton punnets to further reduce the use of plastic packaging.





CO₂ EMISSION REDUCTION

Our goal

Reduce our CO₂ emissions
with 1/3



We are taking action
on the UN Sustainable
Development Goals

13 CLIMATE
ACTION





CO₂ EMISSION REDUCTION | Our activities

At the end of 2018 we conducted a CO₂ baseline study together with [Blonk Consultants](#) to understand where we could best decrease our CO₂ emissions. From that baseline study we developed an improvement plan for transport, energy, mobility and waste. Also more sustainable packaging and reduction of food loss is contributing to reducing our CO₂ footprint.

In 2019 we started with Apeel on avocados to extend shelf life and our wish is that we can also use this in the near future for products such as asparagus for which air transport is the only option because of limited shelf life.

We are using a new supply and demand planning tool for mango and avocado which helps us to have less food loss and less unnecessary and unsustainable transportation of product.

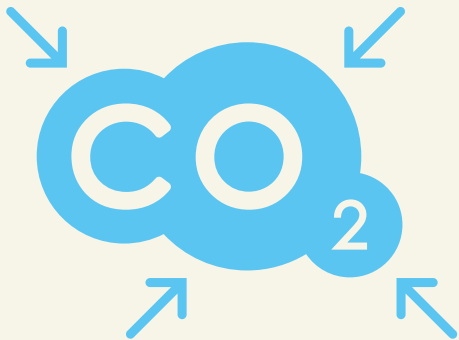
Within our facility we increased the number of electric vehicles and we initiated the installation of more solar panels and led lights. Within our office we reduced our waste by eliminating single use coffee, teacups and plastic stirrers. On a yearly basis we will save ± 132.000 single use cups and ± 45.000 plastic stirrers. We also took measures to reduce waste in our restaurant. In this way we all contribute to reducing our CO₂ emissions!



CO₂ EMISSION REDUCTION | Impact

Our total CO₂ emissions increased with 6,4% to 239.492 ton CO₂ because of our increase in volume traded.

Our average CO₂ emission per product slightly decreased compared to our baseline (2017) with 4,7% to 2,03 kg CO₂ / kg sold product. This is because of a reduction in the average distance for transport, which has contributed to a reduction in transport-related emissions, but also because of our efforts in more sustainable packaging, improved valorisation of food loss and less waste from our facility.



Average CO₂ emission / kg product decreased with 4,7%



Important role of Nature's Pride in the **SuperEcoCombi** project!



CO₂ EMISSION REDUCTION | Case

A few years ago our colleagues Rogier Rook and Stefan Ruinard indicated that driving with 2x40 feet containers at the same time was better than the EcoCombi that already existed and of course better than driving with 1 container. We are very proud to announce that this resulted in an important pilot. In this [video](#) you can learn more about it. We are hoping to see these vehicles on the road the coming years (starting mid 2020). This increases efficiency, reduces CO₂ emissions (up to 27%), a reduction in deployment of personnel and safer roads. Because of weight restrictions, the goal of Nature's Pride to drive with the SuperEcoCombi will only be achieved at a later stage.





RESPONSIBLE WATER USE

Our goal

Responsible water use in our growing areas



We are taking action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION





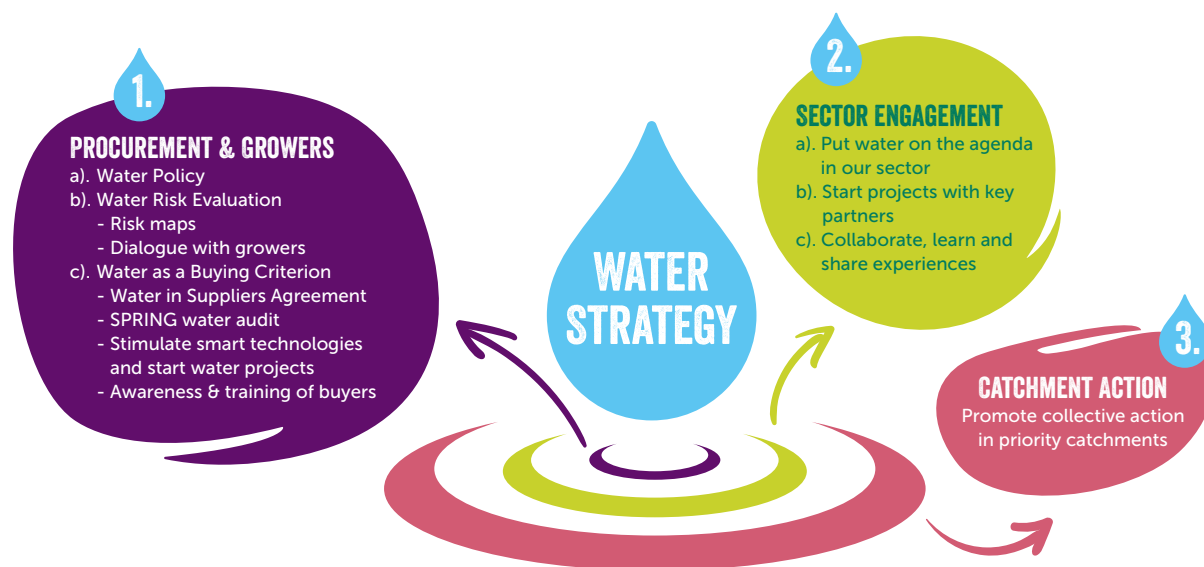
RESPONSIBLE WATER USE | Our activities

Water is of strategic importance to Nature's Pride as fresh fruits and vegetables consist mainly of water. Since 2017 we have been intensifying our work to advance responsible water use at farm and catchment level in our sourcing areas. In 2019, we enhanced our Water Strategy and undertook action on all its three levels.

In level 1, procurement and growers, we updated our Water Policy, organized sessions about water with clients and our procurement staff, and piloted the SPRING water audit with strategic growers in Peru and Chile.

In level 2, sector engagement, we actively reached out to different stakeholders and presented our work at the World Water Week and EU Water Innovation Conference.

In level 3, catchment action, we created a partnership with WWF and IDH Sustainable Trade to promote water stewardship in a priority catchment in Peru. You can read more about all these activities on our website.





25 fields certified
with the SPRING
water audit in Peru
and Chile



Sessions
about water for
40 staff from the
procurement
department



Presentations
about our water
policy at conferences
and to clients.
Engagement with
stakeholders



Partnerships
with strategic
partners such
as GlobalG.A.P.,
WWF, and IDH
Sustainable Trade

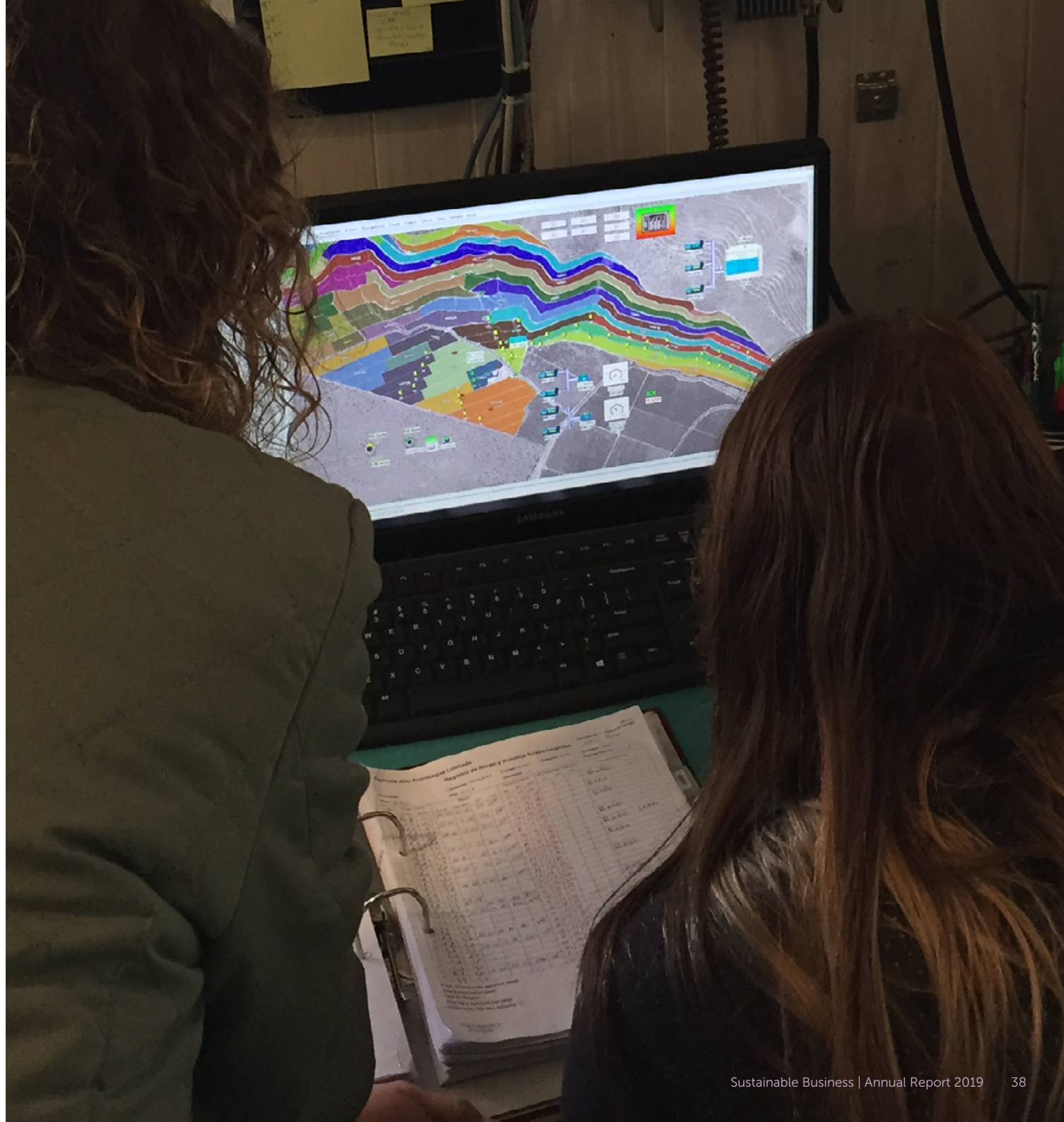


RESPONSIBLE WATER USE | Highlights

In 2019, GLOBALG.A.P. and Nature's Pride entered into a partnership to pilot its new water add-on SPRING (Sustainable Program for Irrigation and Groundwater Use) in Peru and Chile.

During six months, certification bodies and growers were trained in the new standard. In August and September, 25 fields with various crops were audited.

All growers passed the audit and are among the first in the world to achieve GLOBALG.A.P. SPRING certification, meaning that they have legal water sources and excellent on-farm water management.





Objectives 2020



100% Social Monitoring & top themes Beyond Social Compliance

- 95% socially verified or from low risk countries
- GRASP as minimum requirement for new growers, smallholders and low risk countries
- SIM Social Compliance monitoring improvements



Healthy Lifestyle and good living environment

- Continue ongoing and start 3 new projects in line with the new strategy



Reduction of food loss

- Roll out avocados with increased shelf life on a larger scale
- Optimized supply and demand planning for more products



100% of food loss valorised within the food chain

- Retain > 80% of loss avocados and > 25% of mangos for human consumption
- < 2,7% of sourcing volume as 'low value food loss'
- Improve low value food loss valorization to animal feed



100% recyclable or re-usable packaging

- 10% more sustainable packaging
- Update sustainable packaging policy with latest developments



Reduce CO₂ emissions with 1/3

- 5% reduction of our CO₂ emissions



Responsible water use in our growing areas

- Capacity building of procurement staff: understanding core concepts of water, risk analysis and follow-up steps
- Roll-out of SPRING certification to strategic growers
- Start projects to support responsible water management in priority catchments

