

Smart packaging cuts carbon emissions

Special packaging that is used to extend the shelf-life of fresh products can also contribute significantly to reducing CO₂ emissions, according to a new study published by the Agrotechnology & Food Sciences Group of the Wageningen University and Research Centre in the Netherlands.

The report, which looked at Xtend breathable packaging supplied by the Israeli company StePac Ltd, found that such contributions were especially relevant to produce transported by sea. It also calculated that CO₂ emissions can be reduced during truck transport if no ice has to be used to keep the products fresh, as larger quantities of product can then be transported with each shipment.

The researchers considered various transport scenarios, using examples such as



The packaging was found to be effective at cutting CO₂ during sea transport

white asparagus from Peru, mangoes from Israel and cherries from Chile. They found that special packaging like Xtend allows the producer to transport the products by sea instead of by air because it significantly extends the lifespan of the perishable products.

"Sea transport not only greatly reduces shipping costs, but also reduces CO₂

emissions; it therefore has a beneficial environmental effect," said a spokes man.

For all scenarios in which sea transport was used exclusively, the calculations indicated a reduction in CO₂ emissions of more than 90 per cent. For combined transport using both sea and air transport, the reduction was still more than 30 per cent.

Frutsool switches to CHEP pallets

Frutsool, the Spanish company involved in the marketing and export of fresh produce, has announced that it has switched to pallet and container pooling service provider CHEP's 800mm x 1200mm blue pallets for its exports to Germany.

"The benefits of using pooled pallets in the supply

chain and the advantages with respect to the environment have generated significant interest from our German distributor customers," said Nicolás Belmonte, general manager at Frutsool. "They are showing increasing commitment towards using CHEP pooled pallets in place of the traditional white pallet

exchange."

The Spanish group said that the use of the CHEP pallet pooling system for the export of fruit and vegetables to Germany represented a significant move in the industry, with Frutsool benefiting from "superior quality" and "robust pallets that satisfy its customers requirements".

Returnable plastic crate pool organisation **Euro Pool System International** has announced it made steady growth in its business during 2007, handling almost 460m crate rotations (up 11 per cent) and pushing its turnover up by 9 per cent to €145m. In a statement, the company said it aimed to further strengthen its leading position as Europe's biggest returnable transport packaging pool operator based on four central pillars – partnerships, supply chain integration, innovation and sustainability.

Sirane, the UK-based packaging solutions company, is to display its full range of fruit packaging products at the Fruit Focus exhibition, held on 28 July in East Malling, Kent. The group's new compostable material, branded **Resolve**, has already been displayed at both Fruit Logistica in Berlin and Biofach in Nuremberg.

The **Reusable Packaging Association (RPA)** has announced that a groundbreaking field test of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology on reusable transport packaging has begun in the US. The study involves thousands of reusable containers with affixed RFID tags being used throughout all stages of the supply chain in variable conditions, and involves a range of companies including Walmart, Stemilt, IFCO Systems and Tanimura.