

# Peat for Food

horticulture for sustainable increase of  
global food production: the contribution of  
peat in growing media (2018-2050)

## Introduction

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# 2018-2050

- Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future (attributed to Niels Bohr)

# The Idea

- Global demand for food is increasing.
- Horticulture provides efficient ways of producing healthy food with minimal environmental/climate impacts.
- Horticulture needs appropriate growing media.
- Peat containing growing media will remain important in the foreseeable future.
- Increase of global food production by horticulture can only be secured if sufficient peat is available from acceptable sources.
- Acceptable sources: high standards with respect to nature conservation and CO2 emissions.

# Questions to our speakers

## **Chris Blok: peat demand (today-2050)**

- What will be the global importance of horticulture for creating high quality food supply in the future?
- What quantities of growing media will be needed? What will be the role of peat? How much peat will be needed?

## **Bernd Hofer: peat supply (today-2050)**

- How much peat is globally available?
- What peat resources are technically suitable for producing growing media?
- What peat reserves have been currently licensed? How will the licensed volume develop in the near future?
- What resources need to be licensed to supply sufficient peat, as calculated by Chris Blok?

# Peat for Food

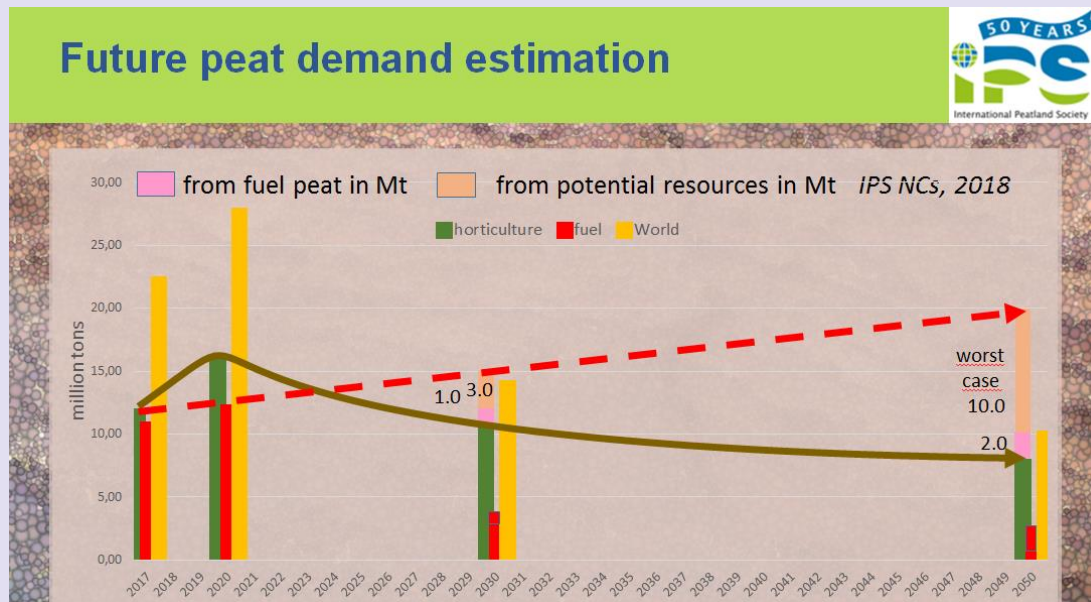
## panel discussion

# 2018-2050

- The best way to predict the future is to create it (Abraham Lincoln)

# Blok and Hofer: Technically possible

- Satisfying the increased demand for peat-containing growing media for horticulture on the basis of responsibly produced peat is technically possible.





# Thesis 1: Degraded/abandoned ...

- Optimal exploitation of degraded and abandoned peatlands (i.e. with appropriate after-use and rewetting measures) will
  - a. contribute to providing growing media for global food production on the basis of horticulture,
  - b. can be a positive contribution both to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and promoting nature conservation.

# Thesis 2: Cooperative solutions

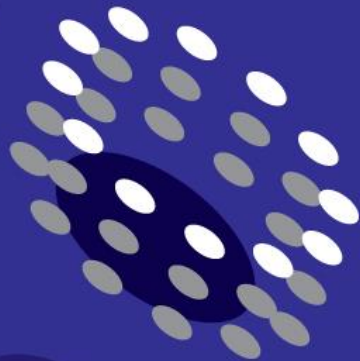
- Industry in cooperation with environmental NGOs and scientists should develop policy proposals on the basis of win-win scenarios that combine (selective) peat exploitation, climate policy and nature protection. IPS should take the lead.



# Thesis 3: Certification

- Certification systems for responsibly produced peat (Veriflora, RPP and potentially others) can play a key role in promoting the above mentioned win-win scenarios.





# REINIER DE MAN

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