

Koppert Biological Systems reduces carbon emissions of its air cargo

For shippers like Koppert Biological Systems, reducing air cargo-related greenhouse gas emissions is a major challenge. Generally, most shippers have good reasons to transport freight by air. Koppert Biological Systems is therefore looking at multiple ways to contribute to a CO2 reduction, including the use of alternative fuels, more sustainable packaging and moving some activities closer to its major markets.

Koppert Biological Systems farms insects and mites: the natural enemies of greenhouse pests such as whiteflies and spider mites. The company also farms bees on a large scale: nature's pollinators for many crops and in particular for tomato cultivation. Koppert packs these natural predators into bottles and small boxes which are then placed in cool boxes containing the appropriate number of cooling elements.

Complete populations of bees (one queen plus 50 workers and young bees) are farmed in cardboard boxes and then delivered complete with food (sugar water and pollen) so that horticulturists can simply place the bees' nests among their crops. "We have a wonderful, 'green' product. Instead of chemical pesticides, we use natural resources to keep crops healthy and free of diseases and pests," says Jan van de Erve, Transportation Manager at Koppert Biological Systems. "Our bees and insects are shipped to more than 90 countries. We are largely dependent on air freight, particularly for sending our products to customers outside Europe."

Decentralization and alternative packaging

In 2019, Koppert embarked on a major sustainability project. Van de Erve is a member of the 'Transport and Mobility' project group tasked with investigating ways of

making transportation more sustainable. Besides looking at other energy sources and the use of alternative or sustainable fuels, Koppert has studied the possibility of decentralization. "As a result, we are considering partially moving some of our activities closer to our major markets," continues Van de Erve.

Koppert is also exploring different packaging methods. In May 2021, the company introduced a 100%-recyclable cool box for the transport of its biological solutions. This environmentally friendly cool box has been designed especially for long-distance shipments to guarantee customers fresh, high-quality products on arrival at their destination. Van de Erve: "The dimensions of our sustainable cool box have been optimized in line with the cargo space for air freight. It may not have the greatest impact on reducing CO2 emissions, but it certainly contributes."

Analyzing CO2 emission scenarios

"We use the BigMile SaaS platform to analyze various CO2 emission scenarios and keep track of our progress. The variations give us insight into how our emissions are reducing and whether we are on track to reach our target of a 50% reduction in CO2 by 2030," he concludes.



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