Sustainability journal 2023



Xpol

Where demand and supply synchronise



Sustainability at Xpol

In this third edition we are pleased to share with you our sustainability achievements realised during 2023. Based on our sustainability programme, which we initiated in 2018.

As from the beginning, we improve and optimise as we work in our daily business. This counts for the quality approach of our products and supply chain, also when it comes to sustainability.

We have set our main targets in 2018 in the fields of waste reduction, packaging, energy, due diligence and emissions & environment, each with their own challenges and possibilities.

Within these fields new market developments take place. There is a clear trend in all parts of the supply chain, from growers and packaging suppliers upto the supermarkets throughout Europe; sustainability is here to stay. Still there is always something to improve.

As in the previous editions 2022 and 2023, also in this sustainability report we show what we achieved in 2023 and what the challenges for 2024 include.

Working on this programme in combination with our other business targets, gives all of us at Xpol positive energy. The feeling of adding something valuable is great. Moreover, sustainability in the product groups flowers and plants, which are so connected to nature and people is a logical part of our business.

In case you want to know more about our programme, feel free in contacting us!

Xpol team



Achieved 2023

What did we achieve?

1 Waste reduction

- Recycled materials in operations Rijsenhout 91%. Taken into separate waste management flows, optimising recycling
- Paperpress: further optimising done, via automatic warning system when containers are full, enabling more efficiency and more weight per container, meaning less containers for the same flow, less transport and lower CO2 emissions
- Plastic buckets: use of grey more sustainable buckets (recycled plastic) standard now
- Due to bigger green containers less green waste transport, lower CO2 emissions
- Tested separate flower food from rejected shipments and now partly used in new shipments
- Tested: sleeves re-use of rejected shipments. Result: difficult due to damages, however, the sleeves are separated in the waste flow
- From the start in 2018 till the end of 2023 in total 720.000 Xpol BOXXes shipped; grand savings on emissions per stem
- 92% of all shipments by air with Xpol BOXX
- 60% of Bama shipments with Xpol BOXX
- Monitoring the stock days KPI per product category: optimizing using Navision and Power BI. In general keeping stock as short as possible remains the daily target
- Increase direct shipments to clients in Norway from 21% in 2022 to 53% in 2023, meaning more efficient shipping
- Shipments to clients in Finland direct from Nairobi, both implying less waste of materials and flowers and increase of vase life

2 Packaging

- Wooden pallets re-used
- Broken pallets are given away
- Use of cardboard skids: after several versions developed with supplier tests done with shipments internally to Finland and Italy
  Advantages:
  - Lower weight (better for carbon footprint)
  - Material recyclable

  Learned:
  Skids okay for internal transport (between growers and Xpol, or to Xpol Finland). Not suitable for shipments to clients retail. Also since the standard is EUR skids with deposit
- Increase the use of grey (more sustainable) buckets

3 Energy

- Electricity of solar panels on the roof is fully used
- Charging stations for electric cars installed
- Cold stores latest technique; electricity reductions achieved
- Refurbished office heating without gas, highly isolated

4 Due diligence

- The majority of growers have signed the Letter of Intent concerning the Code of Conduct
- Focus on social project Afrikado internally, making it more present and top of mind
- Start to include social effects in the lives of the people involved in Kenya on the Afrikado website
- Newday Memorial forest Turkey: Xpol continued in taking part in tree planting via donations
- TEMA Turkey: trees donated via Xpol business from 2018 onwards

5 Emissions & environment

- Decrease buying Kenya 2021 to september 2023: from 64% to 54%, meaning increase from countries NL, TR, FR, GB, IT
- Introduction of Carbon footprint monitoring tool
- 92% of all sourced Xpol volume is FSI compliant. Volumes breakdown: Kenya 78%, The Netherlands 11%, Turkey 11%
- FSI compliance of the volume sourced: Kenya 97%, The Netherlands 81%, Turkey 100%, Italy 100%, Spain 100%

Highlights 2023

Some examples of sustainability achievement during 2023

1 Solar panels on the roof of the new operations building in Rijsenhout
2 Increased use of grey buckets
3 Electric loading docks cars
4 Waste separation
5 Carton skids



1



2



3



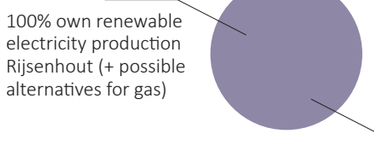
4



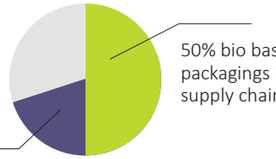
5

Sustainability targets 2025

Target #1
Waste reduction



Target #2
Packaging



Decrease the amount of packaging materials from grower to client by 20% (including cardboard packaging etc.)

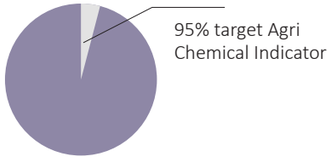
Target #3
Energy

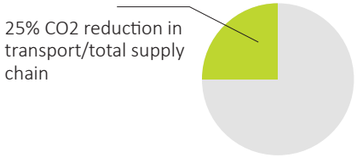
Target #4
Due Diligence



75% of the purchased products to be sustainably produced & social covers

Target #5
Emissions & Environment







Targets 2024

Our targets for 2024

1 Waste reduction

Further optimizing in new production facilitities in Rijsenhout, The Netherlands:

- Recycling / separating materials maximum expected around 94%
- Further increase Bama use of the Xpol BOXX
- Further decrease average stock days: Waste reduction 50% less compared to 1st half 2023 and freshness > 85% of flowers within 5 days (excluding sea freight)
- Further decreasing of the steps in logistic supply chain

2 Packaging

- Develop availability in Kenya carton skids
- Investigate also the 4,5 liter buckets in grey/ sustainable alternative

3 Energy

- Investigate possibilities to further reduce energy usage Rijsenhout

4 Due dilligence

- Towards 95% in volume signed Letter of Intent
- Offer Afrikado to more clients
- Continue Afrikado development packing and shop presentations
- Xpol will participate in Newday Memorial forest Turkey: aim of 3 hectares

5 Emissions & environment

- Further increase sourcing EU
- Further increase seafreight in the total mix of transport supply chain
- Carbon footprint model introduction for further optimisation, knowledge and decision taking together with customers and growers in the supply chain
- FSI aim towards 90% in 2025 key objective responsably produced and trade volumes

Social inspirations

Code of conduct

Next to our 'technical' sustainable measures and targets, we also focus on the social aspects and work conditions at the growers. We are connected to FSI and ask our growers to join in the Code of Conduct, in which we include good working conditions and wages for all people involved, being careful with the environment (chemicals) and work on this with due diligence.

Afrikado
Changing lives

One clear example of social impact through business with a sustainble scope is Afrikado; products made in the workshop are added to Afrikado bouquets, which are sold in Europe via our clients.



In our cooperation with Minalyn Nicklin in Kenya the activities have a positive local social impact throughout the years.



Minalyn:
'The majority of people that work with us are disadvantaged young women, single mothers. For those who have shown interest for further skills like driving and tailoring, we assist them by partially catering for their fees. Those with exemplary academic achievement and have been granted scholarships in a university, we assist them with hostel fees and their other extra-curricular expenses. Our goal is to train them to be self-reliant. While they are with us, we pay them to help them provide for their children and family. They are aware that it`s a transition program thus our goal for those that has been trained under us to be self-reliant. They become confident exploring other possibilities outside. For example, one has started to work as a truck driver having graduated automotive electrician, others own a bakery, an automotive garage, one became an irrigation expert, working in a horticultural farm, a child carer and seamtress for the garment industry. A number of those women and young men who have been trained and employed are now financially independent.'

Newday farms
A new day is on the horizon



Xpol works closely together with Newday farms in Turkey. A grower with both quality and social ambitions. We as Xpol contribute in the social part by working with Newday.





Founder Seval Oz explains: 'Every day is a new day to make a difference and contribute to the world and planet, for now and for the future generations. As a mother of three kids, I dream of a future for our children to have access to equal education opportunities and live in a greener planet. I am happy to be able to produce social and environmental benefits as a result of our business.

Social
On the social part we give women equal chances within our company. Next to that we sponsor the education of talented girls who otherwise could not afford to go to school or university.

Environment
On the environmental side we plant large numbers of trees during the year, which connects well with the green business we are in. This is also made possible in cooperation with our international clients as also Xpol, for which we are greatful. Trees help reducing the CO2 on our planet and create a surrounding attracting animals and other precious natural life.'

Xpol

Where demand and supply synchronise

Xpol B.V.
Kruizemuntweg 27A
1435 DD Rijsenhout
The Netherlands
T: +31 (0) 297 34 41 23

www.xpolplatform.com