

IPS Convention 2019 in Bremen

Economy meets Environment & Society: Future Use of Peat and Substitutes in Horticulture

13 - 15 May 2019

Bremen, Germany

[www.ips2019.com](http://www.ips2019.com)

## **Present situation and development of the peat industry in China**

Professor Dr. Meng Xianmin, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China

Chair IPS National Committee of China

### **Abstract**

China is located in the eastern end of Eurasia, with a high evaporation, low precipitation and low wetting coefficient, which is not conducive to large-scale development and accumulation of peat. In recent years, China's economy has developed rapidly, the adjustment of its agricultural structure has accelerated, the demand for food production and quality of life improvement is exuberant, and the demand potential for peat and peat products is huge. The import of peat and coir has increased by 50% every year. About 680 enterprises that import peat, coir and wood fiber have been registered with the Customs and Commodity Inspection Bureau of China. However, due to the late start of China's peat industry, lack of resources and backward technology, there are still many contradictions and problems to be solved. These contradictions and problems are not only a challenge but also provide great business and technology opportunities for global suppliers of peat, processing lines and equipment, accessories and technical experts.

- The first contradiction is between the huge demand and the shortage of domestic peat reserves. China needs 50 million cubic meters of peat a year for seedling raising, growing media cultivation, soil improvement and fertilizer upgrading, and the current supply is only 2 million cubic meters from overseas.
- The second contradiction is between backward industrial technology and the rapid development of the industry. China's equipment and technology in the fields of peat extraction, processing and application are very backward. Analytical methods, standards and certification systems for growing media are non-existent, leaving the peat and growing media industry in chaotic order with unreliable product quality.
- The third contradiction lies between the portfolio of foreign producers and domestic product demand. Although the potential of the Chinese growing media market is huge, the Chinese market needs a new type of peat-based fertilizer. Such fertilizers should not only improve the soil, but also increase food production and improve the quality of agricultural products.
- A fourth contradiction is between advanced peat-based products and application technology. Peat-based products have brought new technologies, new production models and new business types, but Chinese growers seriously lack knowledge of peat and product application, restricting the promotion and application of peat-based products.
- The fifth contradiction to mention is between our rapid market growth and the small total amount of peat being used. Troubled by the concept confusion of wetlands, peat utilization

has not yet been affirmed and supported by the Chinese government, and relies entirely on the promotion of enterprises. Therefore, market expansion is still limited.

The contradictions faced are definitely a problem and challenge for today's peat industry, but also an opportunity for business and technological cooperation for the peat industry worldwide. In order to solve the above problems, the IPS National Committee of China put forward the following countermeasures:

- Develop cooperation with government authorities: In order to win the affirmation and support from government, the IPS National Committee of China actively communicates with relevant governmental authorities through different channels.
- Allocation of multi-resources: China's market is a huge business opportunity for global peat suppliers. China must pay attention to import moss peat from northwest Europe. At the same time China will expand the introduction of coir, woody peat from Southeast Asia, speed up the development of Russian peat resources, speed up the development of domestic alternative resources and gradually expand the proportion of peat alternative resources. Furthermore, China will actively promote *Sphagnum* farming in southwest China to increase the yield and quality of *Sphagnum*, and reduce the dependence on peat resources.
- Enhance the know-how of peat technology: China will vigorously introduce advanced foreign peat processing equipment and technology, introduce foreign technical personnel, standards and certification systems, strengthen technical training, promote the scientific and technological progress of the peat industry, and improve the technical level of enterprises. China will promote multilateral trade and cooperation in peat, encourage both sides to invest in each other, establish joint ventures, and build a "peat community of interests" and a "peat community of destiny" with equality, mutual benefits and win-win cooperation.

The IPS National Committee of China will do its best to host and organize the '2019 Symposium on Food and Quality of Life and the 1<sup>st</sup> International Peat-based Products and Technology Expo in China' in Qingdao. There it aims to build a platform for knowledge exchange and cooperation between China and foreign countries. Topics will include peat, coir, wood fiber, products, technology, exchange of information and know-how, and create business opportunities. The worldwide peat and growing media industry will benefit from the development of China's peat and growing media industry.