



Botanicoir®

# Sustainability Report 2026

Beyond   
Sustainable  
Redefining coir standards

# About us

We are a family run company with 20 years' experience manufacturing high quality coir products in Sri Lanka for the commercial horticultural industry. Our focus is and always will be providing top quality products and service to our customers around the world, whilst looking after the planet that we inhabit.

Our philosophy is simple: providing products of the highest quality to our customers and working hand in hand with them to innovate and grow together.

Trust, transparency, innovation and partnership are the heart of everything that we do. We believe that through these values not only can we support our customers but also achieve the common goal of caring for our planet and its communities.

We have always grown with sustainability in mind, striving to reduce our environmental impact while supporting those in need. In our early days, our core CSR objective was centred on providing support to the local children's home, which was created to care for children who lost parents in the 2004 tsunami. What began with a single objective has grown into a broader commitment to the wellbeing of the community. Today, our efforts span healthcare and education, local economic development, environmental stewardship, and other initiatives that help build a more resilient future for generations to come.

## Beyond Sustainable

### mission statement

Our mission is to deliver premium coir products through close collaboration with growers and a continuous drive to improve for the benefit of people and planet. We aim to set new standards in the coir industry through innovation and championing sustainable practices.

Beyond   
Sustainable  
Redefining coir standards

## Report overview

This report details our sustainability journey to date and our ambitions for the years ahead. It demonstrates Botanicoir's long-term commitment to sustainable and ethical business practices and highlights how we can support our customers to meet their sustainability requirements. We cover 5 main focus areas; water, people, carbon, biodiversity and plastic, before moving onto our certifications and a timeline of key events.

Supermarkets are increasingly assessing supply chains and prioritising suppliers that meet a wide range of environmental and social standards. At Botanicoir, we are committed to reducing our own environmental impact, and going one step further by also supporting our partners and customers in achieving their sustainability goals.

## Meet our Directors



## United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defines global sustainable development priorities and targets for 2030 and calls on governments, businesses and civil society to take action. To strengthen our commitment to sustainability, we will use the SDGs as a framework to guide and report our sustainability goals and actions.



# Conserving water

Between 2009 and 2019, we successfully reduced water usage in the manufacturing process by half. We achieved this by upgrading our showering systems to make the buffering process as efficient as possible, collecting rainwater on-site and recycling water.

Since 2015, Botanicoir has operated one of the coir industry's most advanced wastewater treatment plants, becoming the first coir substrate producer to invest in this technology. Designed specifically for the coir buffering process, the system treats and recycles water used when calcium nitrate removes naturally occurring elements such as sodium, potassium, silicon, chloride and boron. This investment supports responsible water management, reduces environmental impact and reflects Botanicoir's long-term commitment to sustainable production.

"As our production has grown, we've continued to invest in more advanced water management systems to support the sustainable use and recycling of water across our operations. It has always been important to us to manage water responsibly, and we wanted to lead the way by investing in technology that strengthens both our environmental performance and the long-term sustainability of our business," says Managing Director Kalum Balasuriya.

The treatment plant enables us to collect all wastewater in a closed, central system. The wastewater is processed multiple times with several advanced filtration technologies and purification treatments before discharge.

"After treatment, the water is as clear as drinking water and it meets all standards of the Sri Lankan Environmental Authority", says Kalum Balasuriya.



*Our wastewater treatment plant*

“Botanicoir has made a big commitment to the local environment with the investment in such an expensive, but efficient technology,” says Saman Senanayake, Head of Department at the Sri Lanka Environmental Authority.

Samples of treated wastewater are collected regularly and sent to an external accredited laboratory for testing and analysis. Tests are conducted for a variety of compounds which ensures water quality meets the standards of the Sri Lankan Environmental Authority. Furthermore, we use the treated wastewater to irrigate our coconut estate, thereby recycling water and reducing overall consumption.

As part of our ongoing efforts to conserve water, we installed water meters in 2023 to accurately track our water usage. The graph below highlights the change in water consumption per metric ton of coir buffered between 2023 and 2025 for our Precision Plus Ultra Grade coir.

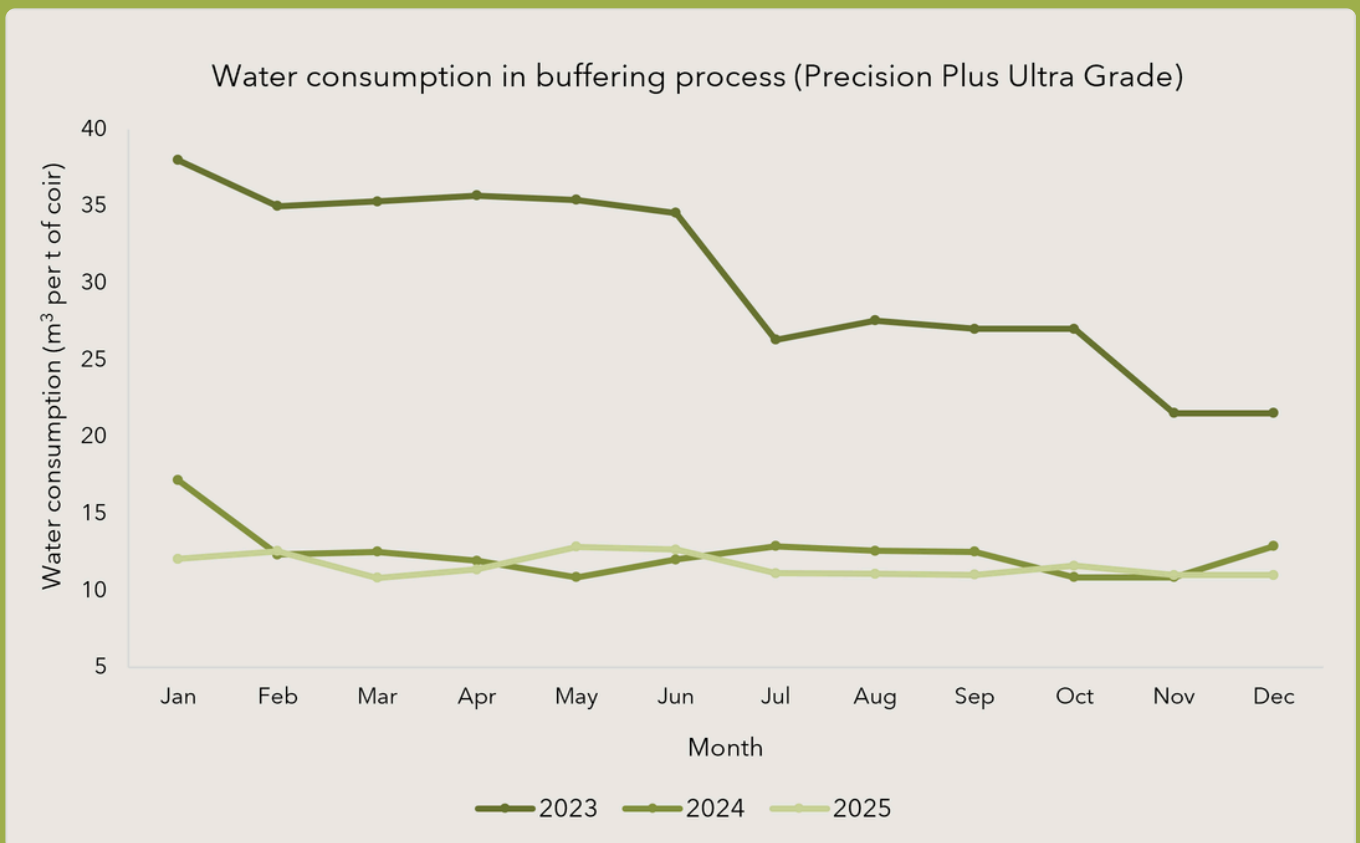


Figure 1: water consumption in the buffering process for Precision Plus Ultra Grade between 2023–2025.

## Future plans

A number of research and development trials are planned to continue our efforts to reduce water usage and improve efficiency of the buffering process.

# Community support

Within one year of Botanicoir's founding, we began supporting a local orphanage which was created to provide a home for children who had lost parents in the devastating 2004 tsunami. Since then, our community support programme has grown significantly, expanding to cover many different aspects of community wellbeing. Today, our initiative supports local healthcare and education, empowers local economic development, protects the environment and contributes meaningfully to the long-term resilience of the community.

## Orphanage

Our support for Wajira Buddi Children's Home began in 2005, and since then we have built a strong, long-term partnership with the orphanage. Our contributions include providing educational materials, assisting with ongoing maintenance and repairs, covering food costs, buying furniture, and organising special events for the children. Once the children turn 18 years old, we also offer work-experience placements at Botanicoir to support their transition into employment.

## Healthcare

After receiving feedback from the community regarding the lack of adequate facilities in the local hospital, we committed to funding and constructing a new outpatient wing. Prior to our involvement, there were no facilities for patients awaiting diagnosis, which placed significant strain on both staff and patients.

Construction was completed in April 2024, providing a modern, fit-for-purpose space that has enhanced the patient care experience. In July 2025, we further strengthened our support by organising a staff blood-donation event which 50 Botanicoir staff members participated in, helping the hospital to maintain essential supplies needed for critical procedures.

"With Dankotuwa Hospital being the closest medical facility to our production facility, we listened closely as they shared their challenges, particularly the absence of a proper waiting area," says Samantha Balasuriya. "In response to this urgent need, we took swift action and constructed a dedicated wing for the Outpatient Department (OPD)."

Staff from the hospital explained, "before this, we didn't have a place to diagnose a patient. This space has been really helpful for the patients. We use this area to advise patients on the next steps and send urgent cases for treatment. We're very grateful to Botanicoir for building this for us."

At least 30 patients are now seen in the new wing each day and waiting times have been reduced by 30 minutes per patient.

## Temple

Temples serve as important community hubs and are an integral part of life in Sri Lanka. We provide support to 11 temples including, funding maintenance and repairs, donating food and other goods and covering the cost of medical treatment for monks. In 2018, we constructed a new building for a local temple, and in 2025 we constructed a car park for the community to use, due to the lack of suitable space.

## Local economic development

We support the local economy by prioritising local suppliers for a range of services, including bag-cutting for factory operations, staff accommodation, meal provision, transportation, and more. Botanicoir has contributed to long-term economic development by constructing and maintaining essential infrastructure such as roads and electrical lines. Additionally, we renovated the village post office which provides important services to local residents.

## Education

Over the years, we have supported 15 schools, colleges and universities through various Botanicoir initiatives, including annual donations of school supplies, funding school trips and sponsoring educational exhibitions and sports competitions. Educational visits to our factory are organised, allowing students to learn about the coir manufacturing process, broaden their knowledge and enrich their learning experience. Through our apprenticeship training programme, we delivered technical and vocational training for 10 students from Kuliypitiya Technical College, helping to prepare them for employment and improve their job prospects.

We are delivering a plastic-pollution awareness campaign to help shift behaviours within the community. We began by presenting to students at the local school, followed by a plastic pollution-themed art competition. The winning artwork will be displayed throughout the village to raise awareness about this issue.

To further strengthen community engagement, we are hosting a village clean-up event which will bring together local residents, students and Botanicoir staff. During the event, we will distribute educational flyers to raise awareness and inspire action. Our goal is to educate, empower, and build connections within the community, encouraging residents to take ownership of their environment.



In 2025, we donated over \$3,900 worth of stationary to local schools and the orphanage.

## Wider community

The community is central to us, and we have proudly supported many community events and organisations including the Jankurawela Dewala Development Society, Arundika Art Society, Dankotuwa Cricket Club, Jankurawela Youth Community group, Makandura Elders Home and many more.

During COVID-19 and the Sri Lankan economic crisis, we provided over 500 food packs to the community. While the Botanicoir directors sparked the idea for an initiative to aid the community during this difficult period, it was our employees who took the lead and volunteered to personally handmade and distribute the packs. Going above and beyond to help those in need is central to Botanicoir's company culture.



Top row (left to right): supporting local schools and temples, middle row: new wing in the hospital and annual book donation to orphanage, bottom row: special book donation event for local school and donating food to community during COVID-19.

# Community Project Spending

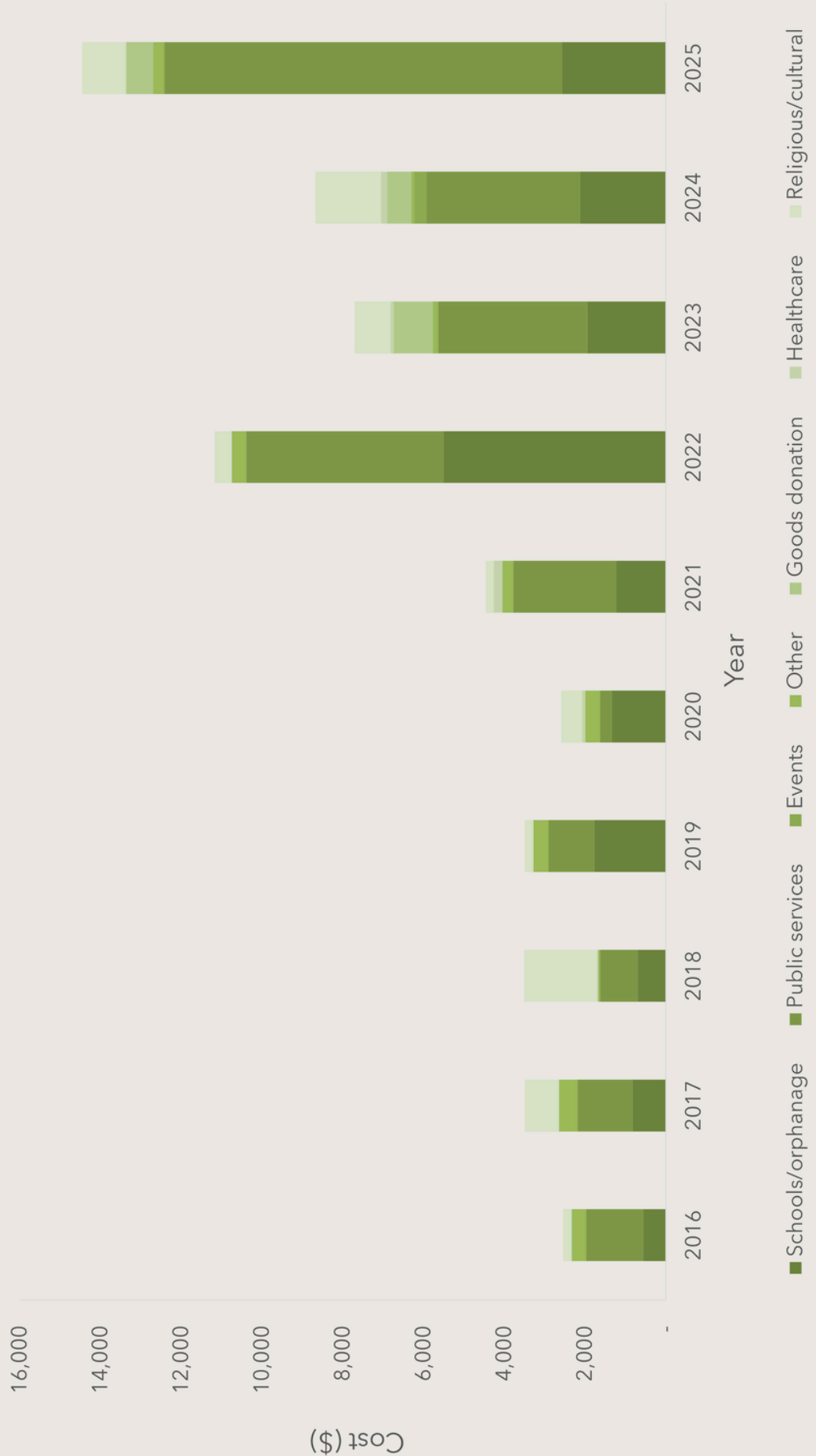


Figure 2: spending (USD) on community projects between 2016 - 2025.

# Employee care

We foster an open, collaborative and supportive culture where every voice is valued. We believe there are no silly questions, and we encourage everyone to speak up, share ideas and ask for help when they need it. By creating an environment built on trust, respect and teamwork, we help our people learn, grow and succeed together.

## Wellbeing

Through the 'Gifts from Us' programme, we provide books and school supplies to the children of Botanicoir employees. "On the 1<sup>st</sup> January each year we organise a book donation for all our employees with children and we extended that to the local schools. We build really good relationships with local community leaders, religious leaders and school principals, who let us know some people were struggling to find the books they needed for their kids. We started this help after the first few years in business," Director, Samantha Balasuriya, explains. Through this donation, we aim to ensure every family has the resources needed to support their children's education and foster children's enthusiasm for learning. This programme began in 2013 and has been running every year for over 13 years.

We host annual religious and cultural celebrations for our employees, including a New Year celebration in January where we hold a ceremony with monks from the local temple. We also hold poetry and art competitions for staff and children of staff, including an art competition during COVID-19 and a poetry and art competition in May 2024 where we received over 100 submissions.

Wellbeing of our staff is central to us, and we provide support by offering free meals at work, free transport to and from the factory, accommodation for employees who do not live locally, regular health check-ups, training programmes, support with further education, volunteering days, financial support and more.



## Responsible policies

- Strict no child labour policy and comprehensive checks to ensure all employees are above 18 years old. We implement awareness campaigns targeting all employees and suppliers
- Regular breaks
- No forced labour policy
- Freedom of association and right to collective bargaining policy
- Working hours in accordance with national labour laws
- Higher than average salaries
- Funeral assistance policy – Botanicoir pledges to support employees by providing transportation and financial assistance
- Employee committee – to foster a health, collaborative and transparent workplace. It supports employees' freedom of association and ensures their participation in workplace decisions.
- Employee financial assistance scheme



Left to right: Team Botanicoir on a tea break, employee celebration in 2017, financial literacy workshop for International Women's Day and the COVID-19 art competition.

# Minimising carbon

Following a two-year long monsoon in Sri Lanka and subsequent concerns regarding coir drying and knock-on effects for growers, Botanicoir launched the first mechanical dryer of its kind in 2016. Coir is typically dried under sunlight, however due to the unusually long monsoon between 2014-2016, the entire industry in Sri Lanka faced challenges with fully drying coir.

Previous attempts at mechanical drying of coir in the industry had resulted in damaged particles and reduced quality in the final product. However, after 12 months of extensive research, development and testing, the team of German engineers working with Botanicoir were successful in designing a system to avoid these types of issues.

The dryer is powered by a biomass boiler and can run continuously, giving Botanicoir the edge in guaranteeing continuous supply in the face of changing global weather patterns while minimising carbon emissions. Our biomass supply consists of woodchip from a renewable energy source.

In 2025, we upgraded the dryer which has more than doubled our daily drying capacity. The new upgrade helps to ensure coir is structurally uniform, free from weeds, and uncontaminated by other impurities. The advanced technology enables uninterrupted production and timely deliveries to customers regardless of unpredictable weather patterns. "Our investment in this advanced drying technology is about more than just increasing output, it's about reliability and quality," says Kalum Balasuriya, Botanicoir founder. "With this system in place, we can confidently meet rising global demand while maintaining the high standards our customers expect."



*Our advanced biomass-powered mechanical dryer*

When transporting our product, we only use sea freight, never air freight, which minimises our transport-related carbon emissions. At Botanicoir, we compress coir before shipping, which enables us to transport more coir than uncompressed. This reduces the number of shipping fleets needed, reducing fuel usage and significantly reducing emissions. This enables us to ship the same quantity of coir in one container instead of five. Botanicoir offers a bus service for employees travelling to the facilities, helping to reduce the number of vehicles on the road and cut emissions.

We prioritise local suppliers and work closely with a range of local partners, including for grow bag cutting, employee accommodation and food suppliers. Further, we have set targets to reduce diesel consumption by improving efficiency, planning, and optimising vehicle use.



*Compressed coir and making use of solar radiation for drying.*

# Biodiversity

Alongside the coconut trees on our estate, we also grow 8 other crops including pineapple, cinnamon, cassava, starfruit, turmeric, mango, sweet potato and banana - otherwise known as intercropping. Plantations that adopt intercropping sequester significantly more carbon from the atmosphere than monoculture plantations (Namitha et al. 2025). Intercropping also helps to improve soil quality by increasing the concentration and diversity of root exudates which enhances soil health and promotes soil microbial diversity (Bopaiah & Shetty, 1991).

This year, we have several projects focussed on biodiversity, including introducing beehives, creating a pollinator garden and monitoring the diversity and abundance of insects, birds and plants on our plantation.

## Beehives

In addition to the widely known benefits that bees provide, from pollination and supporting healthy plant communities to providing a source of income to many rural communities, beekeeping on coconut plantations has been shown to increase coconut yield (Fernando, 1993). Sri Lanka is home to around 150 bee species, including 21 species that are endemic, meaning they can only be found in Sri Lanka (Indrajith, 2021).

As part of our efforts to increase biodiversity on our coconut plantation, we introduced our first trial beehives in October 2025. Following its success, we are expanding the project and will soon have more beehives, housing the native Asian honeybee, *Apis cerana*. We will assess any changes in coconut yield to determine the impact of bees on coconut harvest before sharing our findings and recommendations with our partners. If beekeeping is shown to improve coconut yield, we will share this project with our partner plantations as a natural method of increasing harvest while enhancing biodiversity.



## Pollinator garden

We are creating a pollinator garden, filled with 36 different plant species beneficial for wildlife. The garden will attract a greater range of species, enhancing local biodiversity. This space will include a range of habitat features such as a pond, log piles, basking spots for butterflies, and other natural elements designed to provide food, shelter, and breeding spaces for pollinators and other native species.

## Ecological surveys

To accurately assess biodiversity on our coconut plantation, we began by conducting plant, butterfly and bird surveys to establish baseline levels of biodiversity. In our preliminary plant survey, we identified 41 different plant species. Our goal is to increase the range and abundance of native species on the plantation, which will have an array of benefits including:

- Improve soil quality and soil microbial diversity
- Provide food to wildlife
- Increase diversity and abundance of insects, birds, small mammals and more
- Increase carbon sequestration

Periodic biodiversity surveys will be conducted to assess changes in the plantation's biodiversity over time and to assess the impact of our new initiatives.

In 2025, we donated coconut trees to the community for planting around the village. Coconut trees are a great source of nectar and pollen, which are beneficial for a range of various keystone species.



*Wildlife spotted during our ecological surveys*

# Reducing plastic

Plastic pollution is considered one of the most pressing environmental issues of today. Each year, 8 million tons of plastic makes its way into our oceans, harming communities that depend on the ocean for their livelihoods and endangering marine wildlife and ocean habitats (National Geographic, 2025). A key challenge is that, globally, only 9% of plastic is recycled (OECD, 2022).

The production of virgin plastic is energy-intensive and dependent on fossil fuels. While reducing plastic use remains essential, increasing recycling also plays an important role in minimising emissions and preventing pollution. To support this, we incorporate 30% recycled plastic into all of our grow bags, helping to reduce demand for virgin plastic.

To take our commitment to reducing plastic one step further, we worked closely with our suppliers to develop biodegradable grow bags, undertaking extensive testing and trials to ensure they met the highest quality requirements and standards. We introduced our first biodegradable plastic grow bags in 2019.



*Botanicoir grow bags, containing 30% recycled plastic*

# Supporting growers

We aim to provide growers with robust, verifiable information for use in their sustainability reporting, helping to demonstrate compliance with retailer and certification requirements.

Through ongoing engagement with growers, we have developed a strong understanding of the environmental and social standards they are expected to meet. We identified that many UK supermarkets require growers to hold certification through recognised schemes such as LEAF Marque.

We have identified the following areas where Botanicoir can support growers in achieving compliance:

- Provide support and recommendations to help growers meet environmental and social standards, including for coir management and community engagement targets.
- Develop guidance on habitat and biodiversity management to help growers meet retailer-specific sustainability requirements, including those of Waitrose.

Through Beyond Sustainable, Botanicoir will help growers demonstrate and evidence the sustainable practices they already have in place, while meeting evolving retailer and certification requirements.



*Kalum and Mark (Agrovista) visiting a grower in Kent.*

# Environmental and social certifications

We are proud to be certified members of many environmental and social accreditation bodies, including those below.



# References

Bopaiah B.M. and Shetty, S.H. (1991). Microbiology and fertility in coconut based mixed farming and coconut monocropping systems. *Trop. Agric.* 68(2): 135-138.

Fernando N. (1993). Increase income in coconut lands by bee keeping. Coconut Research Institute. *Coconut Bulletin*, 8(1/2):p.22-23. <https://dl-cri.nsf.gov.lk/handle/1/895>

Indrajith, A. (2021). How to Start Beekeeping? Basic Requirements, Tools and Equipment [Webinar]. *Dilmah Conservation*. [Date accessed: 26/05/26]. Available from: <https://youtu.be/Y-492Lz0EZk?si=QRQufhhRzcp4KdlU>

Namitha V.V., Raj K. Sheeja, Prathapan K. (2025). Carbon Sequestration Potential in Coconut based Cropping System: A Review . *Agricultural Reviews*. 46(1): 143-146. doi: 10.18805/ag.R-2553.

National Geographic(2025). The world's plastic pollution crisis, explained. Available at: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/plastic-pollution>. Accessed: 26/05/26.

OECD(2022), *Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/de747aef-en>.<https://doi.org/10.1787/de747aef-en>



Beyond   
Sustainable  
Redefining coir standards