

Biodegradable nets for packaging



The net for food packaging realized by Novamont Spa and produced by Tenax Spa has been awarded as the best ecopackaging

During the 8th edition of “Salone del gusto” organised by Slow Food in October 2010 in Turin, the net for food packaging in biodegradable and compostable Mater-Bi[®] realised by Novamont Spa and produced by Tenax Spa has been awarded as the best ecopackaging.

The Mater-Bi[®] nets were used by the Presidium Slow food of the old bell pepper variety “Papaccella Napoletana” to them and were presented in the section “Innovative techniques and materials”.



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Slow Food®

TENAX



Advantages of Mater-Bi® nets

The Mater-Bi® net for food packaging has the same strength of conventional plastic nets and it has been made in collaboration with Slow Food to provide an ecofriendly packaging for the products of the Slow food Presidia. In 2010 the adoption of the Mater-Bi® nets meant 66,000 meters less of conventional nets in the packaging of 12 products from Slow Food Presidia.

Mater-Bi® nets in Slow Food Presidia

The Slow Food Presidia are Slow Food projects created with the aim to safeguard small productions of quality agricultural and agri-food products (mainly old varieties of crops) to preserve the specificity of a territory and its peculiar production and traditional way of producing. Slow food Presidia are present all over the world: 194 are in Italy and 148 in other 53 countries, including at a global level more than 10,000 producers. Slow Food Presidia products are then sold both through specialized distribution channels as niche products and in the large-scale retail trade.

Slow Food Presidia were born in 1999 with four aims in which the reduction of the environmental impacts are essential as well

as the safeguard of the biodiversity (both in terms of varieties and methods). The adoption of a food packaging as the Mater-Bi® net is one of the goals of Slow Food. The first Presidium to use Mater-Bi® packaging was the "Papaccella Napoletana" in 2008. Today twelve "Presidia" use this ecofriendly packaging for their products. Later, other Presidia have adopted the Mater-Bi® packaging net: "Arancia bionda del Gargano", "Carote di Polignano", "Cipolla di Giarratana", "Cipolla rossa di Acquaviva", "Limone femminello del Gargano", "Limone interdonato", "Mandarino tardivo di Ciaculli", "Mele rosa dei Monti Sibillini", "Melone purceddu d'Alcamo", "Rapa di Caprauna", and also the fish products "Mosciolo selvatico di Portonovo" and "Tellina del litorale romano".

Moreover the Presidium "Melone purceddu d'Alcamo" aims to improve the environmental sustainability of its production also in the field, introducing mulching techniques with Mater-Bi® biodegradable films (conventional plastics mulches are not allowed as an agronomical technique in the presidia), integrating in this way the ecofriendly process upstream with the biodegradable mulching films and downstream with the Mater-Bi® net for packaging.

Novamont Spa

was founded in 1989 as Fertec, a strategic research centre for Montedison, with the aim of integrating the great chemical tradition of Montecatini with the agro-industrial skills of the Ferruzzi Group.

From the outset the company's mission was to integrate chemistry agriculture and industry, while respecting the environmental and human life. Throughout the phases of its development, this has remained the unwavering objective of Novamont.

Mater-Bi® is the first family of biodegradable plastics using vegetable components such as starches, cellulose and oils from selected non-food crops, presenting the chemical structure generated by natural photosynthesis. Mater-Bi® is an answer to the worsening environmental problems of recent decades.

Mater-Bi® granules are suitable for use in the most common plastic conversion technologies creating products with properties identical to those of traditional plastics, while remaining totally biodegradable and compostable.

The Slow Food Association

is an international eco-gastronomic organization founded in 1989 in order to recognize the importance of the pleasure connected to food and to change attitudes towards food through promoting principles of "good, clean and fair". The Association safeguards the knowledge of traditional producers and the variety of places where food is produced, local recipes and local flavors.

Today Slow Food Association has over 100,000 members in 150 countries worldwide and nine national offices. Slow Food mainly operates in two sectors: taste education and biodiversity.

The Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity was founded in 2003 in order to protect food biodiversity, promote sustainable practices of agriculture (in respect of the environment, animal welfare and local cultures), to coordinate and finance the Presidia and other Slow Food projects to protect food biodiversity in a transparent way.

Through the Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity, Slow Food coordinates and promotes projects in support of small producers

also in the less developed part of the world and helps to boost recognition of the cultures and knowledge of local communities.

One of Slow Food's most important initiatives is Terra Madre, the worldwide network created to give a voice to small-scale farmers and food producers. It now includes 2,000 food communities, 300 academics, 1,000 cooks, 1,000 youth and 200 musicians.

Tenax

is an international Group of Companies which manufacture geosynthetics for civil engineering, geogrids, plastic nets and fencing for construction; nets, film and screens for home and garden; industrial applications and products for packaging solutions like tubular nets or bags nets for fruits and vegetables and bents for meat products. Tenax produces also several applications for agriculture such as several nets for plant protection and packaging, for ornamental plants and trees, thermo reflecting screens, supports for floriculture and horticulture, nets for harvesting olives and accessories like clips, staples, and others.

