

# VERSTEGEN SPICES & SAUCES bv

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# Summary

- Verstegen Spices & Sauces BV
- What is Sustainability
- Why is Sustainability important
- How is Verstegen dealing with Sustainability
- How can you deal with Sustainability



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Since 1886 Verstegen is located in Rotterdam, Holland



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2012, 4<sup>th</sup> generation of the family is in charge. 400 personnel, 22 nationalities. Active in the field of corporate social responsibility since 2005. CSR is part of the responsibility of the procurement department of Verstegen.



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# Products:

Marinades, Sauces, Herb & Spice mixes for the retail market, the industry and the foodservice in Europe. Verstegen is providing only the best quality.



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# Herbs and Spices

Whole, ground,  
dried, freeze dried,  
herbs and spices are  
sourced all over the world



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# What is Sustainability?

Many different definitions, one of the oldest:  
Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Bruntland report)



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# Why is Sustainability important?

## food safety:

50 people died in Germany due to EHEC bacteria in fenugreek sprouts, it has cost the Dutch vegetable industry 230 million euro. Melamine in milk powder in China, 6 children died, 300.000 have permanent kidney damage. Also Sudan red, aflatoxine, salmonella, dioxine etc.



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# Why is Sustainability important?

## food scarcity:

in the year 2050 we need 1,5 planet to be able to feed everybody. In 2030 we need 50 % more energy, 50 % more food, 50 % more water.

Today availability of potato starch, peanuts, sugar is a problem and biofuel, bio plastic and even pet feed are serious competitors of the agro food business. Scarcity can be real or artificial.

The contradiction is that we lose 40 % of our food production world wide as waste and obesity is becoming a "big" problem.



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# Why is Sustainability important?

## food pricing:

According to the FAO (food and agricultural organization of the United Nations) the Food Price Index increased in 2011 with 23 % compared to 2010. The economy in Europe is not so good, retailers are very competitive and consumer prices have to go down, consumers choose price over quality. Speculation is becoming an issue as is price volatility. Social unrest in the Arabic countries may originate from food prices.



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# Why is Sustainability important?

## imago:

if we don't become sustainable by ourselves, somebody else will make us do it. Journalists and organisations like Greenpeace are keen on subjects like child labour. With the influence of social media negative publicity can have disastrous consequences for any company.

More important is that our clients ask us: what are you doing with regards of sustainability, you need to have an answer.



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# How is Verstegen dealing with Sustainability ?



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# Internal topics:

- Environment: rain water in toilets, water purification installation, reducing packaging, introduction of different packaging, active waste policy (separation of paper and plastics), clean motors in trucks, LED lightning
- Quality: best quality, no compromise on food safety but also: use less salt, offering products without gluten and artificial colouring. Strict allergen policy



# Internal topics:

- Social Policy: policy on the active participation of elderly people, women, different nationalities and disabled people. Health program: bicycle project, check up by company doctor
- Certification in 2012 based on the ISO 26000

For more information:

<http://www.verstegen.nl/en/verstegen/csr>



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# In the supply chain

- child labour is absolutely forbidden, this is communicated to all our suppliers
- actively promoting sustainability wherever possible (Dutch Spice Association, ESA a.o.)
- facilitating training programs for pepper farmers
- CSR program on nutmeg
- co-founder and participant of the Sustainable Spice Initiative (IDH)  
[www.sustainablespicesinitiative.com](http://www.sustainablespicesinitiative.com)
- open to discuss suggestions with suppliers and potential suppliers



# How can you deal with sustainability?

1. What are you already doing? For example policy on pesticides, fair trade, social program for workers, training on hygiene or GAP

2. What is easily done? For example waste policy, statement against childlabour. Small investments can have big impacts and even financial gain in the future

3. formulate a CSR mission: where do you want to be in 5 years from now





# How can you deal with sustainability?

4. start a dialogue with your stakeholders.

- on health issues: health of the farmers, your workers, your clients, our clients. Food safety!

- on environmental issues: prevention of pollution of any kind

- on fair trade: not only about paying more but about facilitating the improvement of income of farmers and workers.

- on cost reducing: of transport, of packaging



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Running a business is about risks and opportunities.  
The world is getting more complex and we need to  
take care of it, for the sake of our children.

It's all about risk management,  
and Sustainability is the answer!

[www.verstegen.nl](http://www.verstegen.nl)



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*Verstegen, with pleasure.*



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