A Matter of Fruit

How juice consumption can help tackle our waste problem
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Project Information (EN)

Rethinking the juice industry waste

The industrial processing of fruits and vegetables into juice results in huge quantities of another material, the potential of which is hardly recognised: pomace. These press residues are currently used as fodder and compost, to obtain pectin or to produce biogas and – in theory – undergo a circular process. However, its unique qualities could be put to much better use. Germany is a traditional fruit juice country. Its inhabitants are world champions in drinking apple juice, which consequently produces a vast amount of this valuable biomass. A Matter of Fruit has developed natural films from these local juice press residues, mainly using apple pomace. The new material is compostable and recyclable and can be used as an alternative to fossil-fuel based plastics. This way the initial pomace cycle is extended, where the material can circulate further, replacing harmful linear systems.

Material development

When developing the material, it was important to use as few additives as possible – and to push boundaries: how can different properties be developed solely through different processing methods? For example, granulating pomace in different grain sizes can expand the scope for design and influences the characteristics of the material. The aim of A Matter of Fruit is to take responsibility for its developed materials. Since the new 'pomace material' is recyclable and compostable, it can also be further processed after use. For example, before it ends up prematurely on the compost, it can be transformed into a plant pot, thus replacing plastic pots in order to save further resources. Tests have shown that when the plant is planted in the ground together with the 'pomace pot', the material degrades within three weeks.

Image List

Filename	Caption	Credit
applepomacefilms-2_1665511266.jpg	Apple pomace films	A Matter of Fruit
carrotorangeapple_1665066580.jpg	Black carrot, orange and apple pomace films	A Matter of Fruit
appleplain_1665066589.jpg	Apple pomace film	A Matter of Fruit
print_1665066601.jpg	Pomace print on pomace surface	A Matter of Fruit
appleplantpots_1665067067.jpg	Apple pomace plant pot	

The images above are included in the ZIP under `/images`.