



METALLΕΥΤΙΚΗ & ΛΑΤΟΜΙΚΗ Α.Ε.

Press Release

Cooperation of LAVA Mining & Quarrying with Agricultural University of Athens

Program for the "Development of proper agricultural practices using pumice"

LAVA Mining & Quarrying, a member of the Heracles Group of Companies proceeded in collaboration with the Agricultural University of Athens to carry out a research project on "Development of proper agricultural practices for growing vegetables in pumice and their dissemination in cultivating practices." The cooperation aims at highlighting the best uses of pumice in hydroponics and improving the competitiveness of Greek greenhouse units, through the collection and dissemination of appropriate know-how to producers.

Specifically, in the context of the program the Agricultural University's scientific team will coordinate and monitor the pilot use of pumice in hydroponics greenhouses, providing scientific and technical support to producers in cultivation management. It will also systematically collect information from the monitored cultivations and process them in order to identify solutions to producers' problems and draw conclusions that will contribute to the dissemination of proper agricultural practices.

In hydroponics, the plant growth takes place in substrate, without soil. Pumice is a domestic natural product that can be used as a substrate, since it has very good cultivation performance, is of low cost for the producer and can be reused for many years. Pumice use in greenhouses is internationally widespread, while only recently became available in standard bags for agricultural use in Greece.

During the programme presentation, Dimitris Savvas, Assistant Professor in the Agricultural University of Athens and Scientific Manager of the programme noted that "pumice, as a natural, porous and environmental friendly material can be successfully used in hydroponics. Further improvement of its cultivating efficiency, through the programme may benefit producers by increasing the competitiveness of their greenhouse units and products".

Dimitris Chanis, LAVA General Manager focused on the multiple benefits that derive from cooperation with the Agricultural University of Athens. "It will systematize existing knowledge and enrich it with new data that will be generated under the pilot program. Know-how dissemination to producers will enable them to benefit the most from the use of pumice in their cultivation".



In recent years, the use of hydroponics as a cultivation method in greenhouses is growing. It takes place in a controlled system and ensures high yields, cost savings and competitive products of consistent quality. It is an environmental friendly method, because it reduces the use of pesticides and fertilizers, makes unnecessary soil disinfection and allows the collection and recycling of waste water and fertilizers, helping to protect the environment and saving resources.

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About the company

LAVA Mining & Quarrying S.A is a member of Heracles Group of Companies. It has a presence in the mineral industry in Greece since 1952, mainly in the domain of mining and trading of pumice stone. Today, it operates a pumice stone quarry in Yali island, a gypsum quarry at Altsi in Creta island, a pozolana quarry and a silica sand quarry in Milos island. It also operates in the marketing of aggregates in Volos. The company is one of the most dynamically developing in its sector with significant export activity. Additional information is available on www.lava.gr.

Heracles Group of Companies, a member of Lafarge, is Greece's largest cement producer, with a production capacity of 9.6 million tons per year. Operating three cement plants, in Volos, Halkis and Milaki in Evoia, six cement terminals, as well as production and trading units of aggregates and concrete, the Heracles Group has production activity in 29 prefectures in Greece and trading activity throughout continental and island Greece. Driven by a customer focused approach, brings to the market differentiated, innovative products to meet customer and end-user needs. Additional information is available on www.lafarge.gr.