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By Mike Knowles

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Coconut crisps bag Fruit Logistica prize

Pook Coconut Chips scoop this year's Innovation Award less than 18 months since foundation of product developer

German company PookSpaFoods has scooped this year's Fruit Logistica Innovation Award, with its range of Pook Coconut Chips picking up the gold award after being voted by exhibition visitors as the best of this year's nominees.

The crisps, which are made from Thai coconuts without using any oil or fat, are available in three flavours – Original Sea Salt, Mango Sea Salt and Chocolate Sea Salt – and vegan, gluten-free and free from preservatives.

According to PookSpaFoods, the product can be consumed either as a snack or as a topping on foods like salads, cereals, yoghurt and ice cream.



"We are a small company which set up only recently in September 2016," commented Kanokporn Holtsch, founder and managing director of PookSpaFoods. "This award is a big surprise and especially important for us."

The silver medal went to dark brown tomato Adora, a variety developed by Spanish group HM Clause.



Kanokporn Holtsch picks up the Fruit Logistica Innovation Award for 2018

The tomato is a variation on the Marmande type, a particularly robust, traditional variety of ribbed beef tomato that ripens very early.

What sets the new Adora apart, says the breeder, is its balanced, intensely sweet and sour taste, excellent shelf-life, firmness and good nutritional values.

The bronze award went to a special type of grass-based paper made by German mill Scheufelen.

The organic packaging material consists of up to 50 per cent fresh grass fibre and is completely recyclable and biodegradable.

The use of grass fibres, a renewable raw material, could help reduce energy and water consumption – conventional pulp fibres require 30,000 litres of water and 6,000kw/h of energy per tonne, compared with zero litres and 150 KW/h for grass fibres.

<http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/1474/parts-of-san-diego-quarantined-as-psyllid-count-mounts>

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