

A combination of high-precision optics, filters and light frequencies has been used to create a laser machine capable of keeping birds away from fields.



Gert-Jan Schep, whose company Schep LatinAmericaTrade represents Dutch group Bird Control Group in Latin America, claims the technology is not dangerous for humans or the birds themselves.

"The goal of AgriLaser is to scare away birds with a laser beam that is inspired by nature," Schep tells www.freshfruitportal.com.

"The birds perceive the laser beam's approach as a physical danger, so they resort to survival instinct and it makes the birds leave the area.

"Birds feel a natural attraction to the food supply of agricultural areas, which can lead to the transmission of disease and crop damages. If you don't control the fruits, vegetables and crops that have been recently planted, they become a feast of birds."

Schep says birds in general tend to eat the equivalent of their own weight every day, causing millions of dollars in damages for the global food industry every year.

"Thanks to laser technology the damage caused can be reduced while increasing the yield per hectare," he says.

He says farmers from a variety of countries have adopted the technology, while in the fruit industry one of the biggest names is Peruvian fruit exporter Camposol which has found success with the tool.

"We are just starting in the Chilean market, selling our first laser equipment. We hope to increase sales this year for the new crop seasons," he adds.

The technology is recognized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) as safe for animals.

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