

Issued: Tuesday 26 April

**EMBARGOED until 10.00 Wednesday 27 April**

## **White Paper published today on insect protein for feed**

### **PROteINSECT project's key publication recommends review of insect protein legislation & funding to help address European protein deficit**

- PROteINSECT fish feeding trials demonstrated **insect meal can replace up to 50% of feed without affecting animal performance**
- PROteINSECT pig feeding trials revealed **improved gut health in piglets**
- PROteINSECT poultry feeding trials showed that **chickens fed on insect-containing diets performed as well as those fed on commercial diets**

Following three years of international research into the potential of insect protein in animal feed, the EC-funded PROteINSECT project has published a White Paper setting out recommendations for future use of this additional protein source in Europe.

Since 2013, experts from Europe, China and Africa have been investigating the use of two species of fly larvae in the diets of chicken, pigs and fish, carrying out feeding trials and analysing quality and safety of rearing farmed flies on organic waste substrates such as manure.

Their research findings are summarised in the White Paper published today (Wednesday 27 April) along with recommended next steps to help European policy makers, legislators, industry and consumers grasp 'the insect opportunity'.

The document, titled ***Insect Protein – Feed for the Future: Addressing the need for feeds of the future today***, encompasses safety, nutritional value, environmental impact, commercialisation and consumer acceptance of insect protein in animal feed. It endorses two key actions:

1. A review of Regulation EC 999/2001 and Regulation EC 1069/2009, which prohibit a) the use of insects as a source of protein for animal feed for animals raised for human consumption; and b) the rearing of insects on manure or catering waste, respectively
2. A commitment to undertake the necessary research to ensure that the required evidence is available for the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to carry out a full risk profile for insects reared on organic wastes (building on EFSA's 'Risk profile related to production and consumption of insects as food and feed' published in October 2015).

Dr Elaine Fitches, PROteINSECT project co-ordinator, says, “We are delighted to share our White Paper as a key stepping stone towards furthering our understanding of the potential for the use of insects in animal feed in Europe.”

Copies of the White Paper have already been distributed to key members of the European Parliament and it will be formally presented at PROteINSECT’s final conference taking place in Brussels today.

PROteINSECT’s White Paper is designed to safeguard the impact and legacy of its research, ensuring that the potential of insects to make a valuable contribution to existing and future animal feed demand in Europe is fully realised.

“The protein gap in Europe is a very real risk to social, economic and environmental progress,” says Dr Fitches. “As we seek sustainable European long term solutions we must consider the benefits that the introduction of insects - specifically fly larvae - could have on the content of animal feed. PROteINSECT believes these highly effective protein converters offer great potential for Europe to become global contributors to the provision of alternative and additional innovative protein sources.”

#### ENDS/ Contacts & Notes follow

#### **Media information contact:**

Kate Viggers/Rhonda Smith - Minerva UK - +44(0)1264-326427 - +44(0)7887-714957  
[press@proteinsect.eu](mailto:press@proteinsect.eu) Interviews available with Elaine Fitches, PROteINSECT Co-ordinator/Fera Science Ltd

#### **Notes for Editors:**

1. PROteINSECT’s reaction to the EFSA October 2015 Scientific Opinion ‘Risk profile related to production and consumption of insects as food and feed’ can be viewed [here](#)
2. PROteINSECT’s summary report on current European legislation concerning insect protein and animal feed is available to view and download [from the project website](#)
3. PROteINSECT’s Consensus Business Case ‘Determining the contribution that insects can make to addressing the protein deficit in Europe’ can be downloaded [here](#)
4. Partners in the PROteINSECT project are:
  - FERA Science Ltd - Food & Environment Research Agency, UK Tel +44-1904-462564  
Dr. Elaine FITCHES - Coordinator, expertise in entomology, and Dr Adrian Charlton, expertise in food safety
  - CAB International UK - Expertise in entomology
  - Nutrition Sciences NV Belgium -Global producer of feed concepts and functional feed ingredients (FFIs)

- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven Belgium - Expertise in Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)
- Minerva Communications Ltd, UK - Expertise in Food Policy and Science Communication
- Eutema Technology Management GmbH & Co KG Austria - Expertise in Science Communication
- Grantbait Ltd UK - Maggot Farmer
- Guangdong Entomology Institute China - Expertise in Entomology, especially rearing of insects
- Huazhong Agricultural University China - Expertise in Entomology, expertise in fly rearing and prepupae collection
- Fish for Africa - Ghana Limited by Guarantee Ghana -NGO promoting sustainable Aquaculture in Africa
- Institut D'Economie Rurale Mali - Expertise in sustainable Agriculture in Africa
- The University of Stirling UK - Expertise in Fish feeding trials

**Notes/end**

**PR25/160426**



received funding from the European Union's  
Horizon Europe Programme for research, technological  
innovation and demonstration