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For immediate use

Ghana NGO helping to investigate the potential of insect protein as an ingredient in fish feed

Fish for Africa, based in Accra, is one of 12 partner organisations participating in the EU-funded project PROteINSECT.

A growing global population combined with an increased demand for meat and fish means that there is a need to find alternative, sustainable sources of protein for animal feed. PROteINSECT is researching whether fly larvae, grown on organic waste materials, could be a suitable protein source in feed intended for fish, pigs and poultry.

One organisation making an important contribution to the PROteINSECT project is the Ghanaian NGO, Fish for Africa, which promotes sustainable aquaculture as a tool for eradicating poverty and malnutrition in rural and peri-urban communities.

Fish for Africa's role in PROteINSECT includes establishing and optimising sustainable fly production systems. They are also carrying out fish feeding trials with the larvae (maggots) produced. Eventually, the tested formula will be distributed to fish farmers belonging to the Rural Aquaculture Promotion Programme for use on their farms.

Dr Gabriel Koko, Director General of Fish for Africa, says: "PROteINSECT is a really exciting project to be involved in. Not only is it focused on helping solve the global problem of food security, it also provides an excellent opportunity to support local fish farmers here in Ghana."

In addition to Fish for Africa, the PROteINSECT consortium includes research centres, farmers and feed industry multinationals spread across Europe, China and Mali. Knowledge transfer between these international partners is a fundamental element of the project and will be key to the successful implementation of insect production systems on both a local and commercial scale.

ENDS/ Contacts & Notes follow

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press@proteinsect.eu Interviews available with Elaine Fitches, PROteINSECT Co-ordinator/FERA

Notes for Editors:

1. PROteINSECT survey on production and use of insect protein for animal feed can be accessed here <http://www.proteinsect.eu/index.php?id=2>
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 <http://www.proteinsect.eu/index.php?id=3>
3. Partners in the PROteINSECT project are:
 - FERA - Food & Environment Research Agency, UK Tel +44-1904-462564
Dr. Elaine FITCHES - Coordinator, expertise in entomology and 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 Entomology and Fish feeding trials

Notes/end

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