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For immediate use

FINDING ANSWERS TO USING INSECT PROTEIN IN ANIMAL FEED

PROteINSECT furthers the research agenda in line with EFSA recommendations and its own research mandate

The EC-funded PROteINSECT project continues to provide answers to key questions surrounding the potential use of insect protein for animal feed.

The work of PROteINSECT partners is vital to satisfy the call from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for continued research – a key recommendation of EFSA’s Scientific Opinion of the potential risks associated with using insect protein in food and feed, published 8 October 2015 <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/4257>

“With a research mandate encompassing production, processing, quality, safety and consumer acceptance, our partners are ideally positioned to contribute robust data to help fill the current knowledge gaps related to the use of insect protein in animal feed,” says Dr Elaine Fitches, PROteINSECT’s project co-ordinator.

The current need for additional scientifically-published nutritional quality data is being supported by PROteINSECT’s international feeding trials in Europe, China and Africa, where insect-based feed is being used to assess palatability of such feed and monitor for allergenicity in farmed animals (pigs, poultry and fish).

Results of the project’s on-going work into assessing chemical, allergy and microbiological risks from insects and the substrates on which they are fed will be communicated over the coming months.

PROteINSECT published its Consensus Business Case in May this year, determining the contribution that insects can make to address the protein deficit in Europe. Increasing global populations and changing diets have led to the urgent need for additional supplies of protein from sustainable sources for inclusion in animal feed.

Whilst the EFSA opinion represents an important stepping stone towards the introduction of insect protein in food and feed in Europe, public opinion will have significant impact moving forward. PROteINSECT is therefore mapping consumer perceptions of animal feed and potential acceptance of buying and eating animal protein fed on insect protein via two international online surveys (one survey is ongoing - accessed here <http://bit.ly/1GZigAi>)

The results of the project’s scientific research and animal feeding trials will contribute to the development of a ‘White Paper’ to be placed before the European Parliament to support the on-going debate concerning regulation and legislation that will drive the use of insect protein in animal feed.

“Our partners are already sharing their broad expertise and knowledge with a wide audience, to demonstrate the potential of insect protein as a viable novel feed and its promising role in addressing the challenge of our planet’s future food security,” says Dr Fitches. “We will continue to communicate our research findings, to inform and enlighten the ongoing discussions around the potential of insect protein for animal feed.”

ENDS/ Contacts & Notes follow

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

Notes for Editors:

1. PROteINSECT's position statement on EFSA's Scientific Opinion "**Risk profile related to production and consumption of insects as food and feed**" EFSA Scientific Committee, Question number: EFSA-Q-2014-00578 – can be accessed here <http://www.proteinssect.eu/>
2. PROteINSECT consumer perception survey on the use of current and potential sources of protein in animal feed can be completed in several languages [via our website](#)
3. PROteINSECT's Consensus Business Case – "**Determining the contribution that insects can make to addressing the protein deficit in Europe**" – is available to view [here](#)
4. PROteINSECT's summary report on current European legislation concerning insect protein and animal feed is available to [download from our website](#)
5. Partners in the PROteINSECT project are:
 - FERA - 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

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