

Issued: Monday 19th October 2015

For immediate use

NEW FILM SHOWCASES POTENTIAL OF INSECT PROTEIN FOR ANIMAL FEED

- **‘Feeding insects to farmed animals’ – chicken feeding trials film released following World Food Day (Friday 16th October)**
- **Research demonstrates potential of insect protein for sustainable farming in Africa, Europe and worldwide**

African partners in Mali and Ghana from the EC-funded [PROteINSECT](#) project have released a film demonstrating the potential of insect-based animal feed as a cost-effective, additional and novel protein source – and are keen to share their expertise with farmers across Africa as well as in Europe and worldwide.

The PROteINSECT project, which is working in Europe, Africa and China to investigate the use of insects as an additional and novel protein source in animal feed (chicken, pigs and fish), is keen to share its expertise to help address the issue of food sustainability, for both small-scale farmers in Africa and meat producers worldwide.

Pioneering researcher Dr N’Golope Kone was filmed at his facility in Mali, where insect protein feeding trials are being carried out with chickens. The film’s release coincided with [World Food Day](#), with global attention was drawn to the persistent challenges of hunger, malnutrition and future food security for our planet.

[Watch the film](#)

Dr Marc Kenis, a PROteINSECT partner and entomologist at the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), also appears in the film. He says, “These feeding trials are a key stage in our search for a more sustainable source of protein than those currently in use. Insect flour offers huge potential as an added, economically-viable, ‘home-grown’ protein source for farmers who have traditionally relied upon fish meal and soy flour.”

With 33 million farms in sub-Saharan Africa owned and worked by smallholders¹, PROteINSECT’s research represents an important step towards promoting self-sufficiency and providing opportunities for growth across the continent. Dr Sidi Traore, a poultry farmer from Bamako (Mali) who is featured in the film, says, “I think this is an extraordinary

opportunity because currently it is very difficult to have a stable and affordable food production which can provide enough protein.”

The ongoing search for additional, sustainable sources of protein is also on the agenda in Europe, where it is recognised that the protein deficit and our increased reliance on imported sources of protein need to be addressed. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) recently published its scientific opinion on the comparative risks of insects as a source of protein for food and feed.

EFSA recognises that in parts of the world outside the EU such as Africa, insect-based feed is an emerging agricultural practice, which could pave the way for the adoption of ‘novel feeds’ in European farming.

An important consideration for African feed producers, however, will be potential restrictions placed on importing meat from animals reared on insect protein into Europe. The film also acknowledges that further safety testing is essential before such meat is widely available for human consumption.

“This film makes a valuable contribution to the current discussion surrounding insect protein for animal feed,” says Dr Elaine Fitches, PROteINSECT project co-ordinator. “The video will raise awareness of our work and showcase our African partners’ expertise - potentially to a wider audience than ever before - whilst encouraging and informing debate around the benefits and challenges of using insects to support sustainable farming methods across the world.”

To support global meat and fish producers and to enlighten ongoing discussions resulting from the EFSA opinion, PROteINSECT will continue to publish its research findings from Europe, China and Africa on processing, production, quality, safety and consumer acceptance of insect protein for animal feed.

ENDS/ Contacts & Notes follow

Media information contact:

Kate Viggers/Rhonda Smith - Minerva UK - +44(0)1264-326427 - +44(0)7887-714957
press@proteinssect.eu

Interviews available with Elaine Fitches, PROteINSECT Co-ordinator/FERA

Notes for Editors:

1. Statistic citation: [Food Tank](#)
2. PROteINSECT survey on production and use of insect protein for animal feed can be accessed [here](#)
3. PROteINSECT’s summary report on current European legislation concerning insect protein and animal feed is available to view and download [from the project website](#)

4. Partners in the PROtelNSECT 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

PR17/151019/FINAL



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration