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For immediate use

INSECT PROTEIN PROJECT SCOOPS EUROPEAN INNOVATION AWARD

EC-funded project PROteINSECT recognised for its ambitious innovation potential in using insect-based protein for animal feed

Using insect protein in animal feed is one potential solution to the protein deficit caused by increased demand for meat from a growing global population. The EC-funded project PROteINSECT has been working to enable the exploitation of insects as a novel and sustainable protein source for farmed chicken, pigs and fish, investigating processing, production, safety and quality, mapping consumer acceptance, conducting animal feeding trials and publishing a Consensus Business Case to explore the market potential of this novel protein.

This significant work, and its contribution to the ongoing discussion around the potential of insect protein for feed and food – particularly in Europe, where the concept is emerging - has now been recognised by CommBeBiz; an EC-funded project working with bioeconomy researchers and their projects to enable effective and speedier transfer of knowledge to key stakeholders including industry and policy players. CommBeBiz launched its Awards this year to acknowledge and support ambitious research ideas within the European bioeconomy with the potential to address major market and societal challenges. Winners were chosen by an independent, international judging panel and receive a tailored support package to help them reach their innovation goals, whatever their stage of development or research.

PROteINSECT was selected as one of only eight EC-funded projects to have demonstrated exceptional business or social innovation potential. The winners each presented their projects at the EBN Congress in Brussels on 29th October, to an audience of judges, industry experts, EBN's bioeconomy special interest group and the media.

Edward Barnes, who accepted the award on behalf of PROteINSECT, says, "It's fantastic to be given this award in acknowledgement of the work of all our researchers. The exposure will also be hugely beneficial in raising awareness of our research, and building relationships with key stakeholders in Europe."

For its support package prize, PROteINSECT has requested help with defining value proposition, channels to market, cost structure and revenue streams – to help its development both scientifically and commercially before the project ends early next year.

Dr Elaine Fitches, coordinator of PROteINSECT, says, “It’s an exciting time to be involved in the alternative protein market and this award opens many more avenues to us, both to identify and set in motion important ‘next steps’ beyond the close of the project and to keep the public up-to-date with our research and results. We’re looking forward to utilising the support now available to us via CommBeBiz to make the most of this opportunity.”

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](#)
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. 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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