

- PRESS RELEASE -

Building Bridges between the Insect Production Chain, Research and Policymakers

- The Research Priorities of the European Insect Sector in the Context of the future framework of the Horizon Europe Programme -



The International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed (IPIFF) is publishing today a Contribution Paper on the Research Priorities of the European insect producing sector, entitled '[***The International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed - building bridges between the insect production chain, research and policymakers***](#)'. This document is the result of a multistakeholder dialogue within the umbrella association, a process that has been initiated at IPIFF's latest **General Assembly** meeting - held in May in Copenhagen.

The objective of this publication is to serve as a background document for the public consultation organised by the European Commission on the [Co-design of the Horizon Europe Programme](#) - ended on the 8th of September[i].

Notably, this document consists of two main priorities: **1. Unleashing the circularity potential of the insect sector** and **2. Exploring the nutritional and health benefits of using insects for food and feed.**

'Research and Innovation are fundamental for our sector and more generally towards achieving a more sustainable agri-food nexus', explained **IPIFF's President, Mr Antoine Hubert**. *'Through this contribution paper, we aim at offering a concise description of the priorities of our sector, developed in the framework of the new EU Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme'*, added the **IPIFF Vice President, Ms Adriana Casillas**.

With [close to 90 million tonnes of food being wasted every year in the European Union](#), *'insects have the potential to upcycle many of these materials into a wide range of products that are compatible with the nutritional needs of non-ruminant animals. However, in order to unleash the circularity potential of insects, science-based evidence is essential to eliminate existing regulatory bottlenecks'*, underlined **Mr Lars-Henrik Lau Heckmann** (IPIFF Executive Committee Member in charge of Research). Not only can insects offer local solutions to animal farming: *'insect frass has proven benefits on plant health, growth and development, reintroducing nutrients back into the food chain – following its application as soil amendment'*, added **Mr Lau Heckmann**.

Research on the role of edible insects on human health is presently developing. Further investigating the potential of insects in tackling nutrient deficiencies or their probable inclusion into personalised diets, will gradually demonstrate their excellent properties. In animal feed, studies indicate the role of insect-derived ingredients in improving the immunity and the development of farmed animals.

*'We hope that this document will play a positive role in **harmonising European research priorities that can deliver viable, circular and sustainable solutions** for ourselves and the future generations. This Contribution Paper is a key illustration of the importance we attach to multistakeholder communication within our association',* concluded **Mr Hubert**.

Through this Press Release, our platform wishes to take the opportunity to continue the dialogue on the Research Priorities of the European insect sector. Therefore, we kindly invite insect producers, processors, researchers and policymakers to the International Workshop '[**Unleashing the Circularity Potential of the European Insect Sector through Research and Innovation**](#)', organised on the 3rd of December in Brussels - interested participants are asked to pre-register by sending an e-mail to info@ipiff.org.

[\[1\]](#) The two main Research Priorities presented in this publication have been defined taking into consideration the future architecture of the soon-to-be-adopted Horizon Europe Programme (notably, the Clusters of the Pillar 2 '**Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness**'), as well as future-oriented solutions that have a recognised potential to facilitate the development of the European insect sector, while bringing close-to-market solutions to numerous EU and global challenges.

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***The International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed (IPIFF)** is a non-profit organisation which represents the interests of the insect production sector towards EU policymakers, European stakeholders and citizens. Composed of 52 members, most of which are European insect producing companies, IPIFF promotes the use of insects and insect-derived products as top tier source of nutrients for human consumption and animal feed.*