



## - PRESS RELEASE -

# IPIFF Contribution Paper on the application of insect frass as fertilising product in agriculture

Brussels, 20 September 2019

The **International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed** - the European association representing the stakeholders involved in the production of insects - is publishing today its [\*'Contribution Paper on the application of insect frass as fertilising product in agriculture'\*](#) a document which presents the position of the umbrella association as part of its strategy to expand the circularity potential of insect production.

The development of the European insect sector brings numerous opportunities for the consumers of alternative sources of protein, as well as for farmers. In addition, insect by-products - such as the excrements originating from larvae (hereinafter referred to as 'insect frass') have a unique potential to be applied in agriculture as a fertilising product.

*'Thanks to its similar properties to other non-mineral fertilisers, insect frass is likely to become a viable complement in fertilisation programmes', explained **Antoine Hubert**, the **IPIFF President**. 'However, not all insect farms have the possibility to use their frass on agricultural land due to the absence of harmonised rules at EU level', added the **IPIFF Chair**.*

In the contribution paper, ***IPIFF calls on the EU legislator to take immediate action*** in order to facilitate the development of ***uniform standards*** that will enable all insect producers to valorise their frass on the EU market. The document concisely summarises the position of the European insect sector, while presenting the future-oriented strategy of the IPIFF organisation - in the form of four key recommendations.

*'Defining EU standards for application of frass will enable insect producers to close the loop of their production cycles', declared IPIFF's **Executive Committee Member** in charge of Circular Economy, **Raphaël Smia**. 'This will not only bring a source of income for insect farms but also offer viable, local and environmentally-sound solutions for European nurseries, vineyards or orchards, for example', concluded **R. Smia**.*

The approach presented in the IPIFF Contribution Paper not only reflects the position of the IPIFF insect producers but is also the result of a multistakeholder consultation - involving researchers and academia, too. *'Preliminary trials performed by insect producers already indicated the high potential of insect frass to contribute to plant health, growth and development'*, underlined the **IPIFF Vice-President, Adriana Casillas**.

In conclusion, the umbrella organisation wishes to express its intention to continue the collaboration with the European Commission services, as well as with Competent Authorities - continuing its mandate as a bridge-builder between insect producers and policymakers.

*For more information, please contact IPIFF's Secretariat:*

Secretary-General

**Christophe Derrien**

T: +32 (0)4 86 44 94 76

christophe.derrien@ipiff.org

Communication officer

**Constantin Muraru**

T: +32(0)2 743 29 97

info@ipiff.org

***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 53 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.*