



- Press Release -

The International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed

Brussels, 20th of May

The [International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed](#) (IPIFF) - the focal point of the insect production sector in the capital of the European Union - salutes today's release of the '[Farm to Fork](#)' strategy. To provide constructive input to the 'Farm to Fork' discussions, **IPIFF launches a brochure entitled '[The insect sector milestones towards sustainable food supply chains](#)'**. This document provides an overview of the main IPIFF regulatory priorities, presented in line with the general strategic orientations under the 'Farm to Fork' (F2F) strategy.

'Our association welcomes the launch of the F2F and believes that the objectives of this strategy will play an important role in the development of our sector – which in turn, could help in the transition towards more sustainable and resilient food systems', stated Antoine Hubert, IPIFF President. The transition to more sustainable food is interconnected with our dietary patterns. The role of insect production is pivotal in providing diverse, local and nutritious food products – essential in supporting the transition towards healthier and future-proof diets (**chapter III**).

Through circular processes inspired from nature, insects could also bring added value by upcycling underused agri-food by-products or former foodstuffs (**chapter II**). We closely study the life-cycle of insects and we learnt that they are capable of biotransforming a wide range of materials. Diversifying the spectrum of products used as feed for farmed insects – by authorising former foodstuffs containing meat (from non-ruminant animals) and fish - would allow our sector to play a greater role in the joint efforts to reduce the food waste burden. While IPIFF envisages regulatory action on this topic in 2022, we consider it essential that the European Commission services develop a **roadmap on the revision of the EU legislation on animal by-products** – including an evaluation of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). In parallel, IPIFF remains engaged in a close dialogue with food and feed partners, notably former foodstuffs processors, actors who play a crucial role in valorising materials which are currently lost from the food chain.

More possibilities for insect production will also contribute to **improving EU's self-sufficiency in terms of protein-rich feed materials** (**chapter I**). Complementary, insects or the by-products from insect farming - such as insect frass - could provide sustainable biobased solutions with multiple application in farming, biofuels or bioplastics (**chapter II**).

Insects have been part of the natural diet of numerous animals, including those that are widely consumed by humans - such as fish, chicken or pigs. 'While insects can be incorporated in the feed of aquaculture species since July 2017, **we remain confident that soon we will also be able to provide diverse, local, and sustainable solutions for poultry or pig farmers**', complemented the IPIFF President. **'We trust that the F2F will accelerate the materialisation of such key legislative reforms for our sector** - further bringing regulatory visibility'. Among these topics, our association highlights the importance to acknowledge the particular characteristics of insects - for example by developing specific standards for insects as food (ahead of the novel food authorisations).

'Consumer demand for better-quality food products is key to the growth of our sector. Europeans will move towards more local and sustainable diets', said the IPIFF Secretary-General, Christophe Derrien. The nutritional advantages of edible insects are of notable importance for an active lifestyle, maternal and child nutrition or healthy ageing. Including insects or their derived products – in the form of pasta, bakery or meat substitutes – will contribute to improving EU consumers' access to healthy and sustainable nutrition sources (**chapter III**). In our view, the European Commission services should explore the possibilities of launching educational campaigns **highlighting the benefits of consuming diverse protein sources** produced in the EU, while **fostering consumers' acceptance of novel sources of protein** (e.g. insects) in Europe.

Under the 'Farm to Fork' strategy, the European Commission also intends to promote the production and consumption of organic food (**chapter IV**). We hope that in the near future, **the creation of organic standards for insect farming activities** will allow us to respond to our customers' expectations - while supporting the development of the organic sector. 'Of particular importance is the use of insects in organic aquaculture, as well as organic food products - sectors which are rapidly developing across Europe', highlighted Mr Hubert.

A fairer food system should value sustainability at all stages of the production chain - and in our view - the role of farmers shall remain central under the 'Farm to Fork' framework. Thanks to its diverse activities, insect farming has the potential to strengthen the links between urban and rural areas, providing a **complementary source of income to crop and livestock farmers alike, while making agriculture more attractive for the young generation.**

'Unlocking certain regulatory opportunities will allow the insect sector to maximise its contribution to the objectives of the **EU Green Deal**', declared the IPIFF Secretary-General. However, to ensure coherence, the 'Farm to Fork' objectives shall be coordinated with key European initiatives, which would facilitate the implementation of future-oriented strategies on national level, but also transboundary knowledge-sharing. To this end, we consider that **initiatives such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Horizon Europe programme or the InvestEU Fund are some of the key catalysts** in addressing EU-specific challenges (**chapter V**).

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Interested to know what 'insect farming' is about? Check our updated 'Frequently

Asked Questions' on the [IPIFF website!](#)

If you wish to hear more regarding the development of the European insect

sector, follow us on our social media platforms!



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 64 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.