



- Press Release -

## The International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed

Brussels, 2nd June 2021

### The European insect sector highlights the circularity potential of insect frass as a relevant element in reaching the 'Farm to Fork' objectives. IPIFF Executive Committee elections

The European insect sector reiterated its pledge to support the 'EU Green Deal' objectives - notably in the context of the recently-launched 'Zero pollution action plan'. More than 200 participants from the four corners of the European Union and beyond gathered online for the 'EU Green Week' workshop hosted by the International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed (IPIFF), entitled ['Closing the Loop: Improving Soil Health and Fertility through Insect Frass Application'](#). This event followed the 1st IPIFF General Assembly of 2021, where a new IPIFF Executive Committee for the term 2021-2024 was elected.

Under the baton of **Ms Natasha Foote**, agri-food journalist at EURACTIV, this IPIFF workshop featured seven speakers experts in the fields of organic fertilisers and insect production, including delegates from the European Commission (**Mr Matjaž Klemenčič** - Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety; **Ms Johanna Bernsel** - Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs) and relevant representatives of the industry associations and the civil society<sup>[1]</sup>.

Following the recent vote of the EU Member States – which on May 25th reached an agreement on developing EU baseline standards for insect frass - *'we are confident that farmers from all across Europe will be better equipped to improve soil health and yields by incorporating insect frass into their fertilisation strategies in crop production, orchards or vineyards'*, underlined the outgoing IPIFF President, **Mr Antoine Hubert** in his opening speech. The keynote speaker of the event, **Mr Matjaž Klemenčič**, presented an overview of the regulatory context and the latest legislative developments regarding insect frass, mentioning that *'the new standards are subject to the regulatory procedure with three months scrutiny of the European Parliament and the Council before adopted by the Commission'*. In the 2nd session of the event, IPIFF's Executive Committee member in charge of circular economy, **Ms Chloé Phan van Phi** presented the IPIFF position on insect frass and reiterated the fact that such fertilising products could - in addition to improving soil and plant health - be *'instrumental in achieving the 25% organic agricultural land target of the EU Farm to Fork'*. This view was also echoed by the panellists (**Mr Benoît Planques** - ECOFI; **Ms Penelope Vincent-Sweet** - EEB), who applauded the ambitious targets of the European Commission and mentioned that, to achieve those, farmers require local and sustainable solutions to ensure soil and plant health would remain a priority.

A new IPIFF Executive Committee was elected as part of the IPIFF General Assembly organised on the 1st of June. Chairing the meeting after the formal vote, the newly-elected IPIFF President **Ms Adriana Casillas** mentioned that the remarkable achievements of the European insect sector in the past years *'reflect the efforts of the fruitful collaboration between science, industry and policymaking'*. Following the last 'green light' from the European Commission on the creation of EU wide standards for insect frass, the insect sector remains as committed as before to the 'Farm to Fork' objectives and its roadmap to achieve more sustainable food systems by 2030.

'The recent milestones on the first EU novel food authorisation for insect-based products, the approval of the EU Member States to incorporate insect PAPs<sup>[2]</sup> in poultry and pig feed, and lastly the vote on the standards for insect frass, motivate us to intensify our efforts and to strengthen our collaboration on the key priorities of our sector, such as the diversification of the substrates authorised in insect farming', mentioned the IPIFF President **Ms Adriana Casillas**. 'This is a subject which will remain one of the main targets of our sector in the upcoming months', complemented the 1st IPIFF Vice President, **Mr Aman Paul**.

**Note:** Registered participants will also receive a link to access the recording of this webinar. This video will be made available on the IPIFF YouTube channel soon.

<sup>[1]</sup> Mr Benoît Planques - European Consortium of the Organic-Based Fertilizer Industry (ECOFI); Ms Penelope Vincent-Sweet –European Environmental Bureau (EEB).

<sup>[2]</sup> Processed animal proteins

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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 76 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.