

## **Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking: driving** innovations for SMEs

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# Advancing a competitive bioeconomy for a sustainable future

CBE JU is funding projects that deliver bio-based solutions – materials and products made from waste and biomass – in an innovative, sustainable and circular way



## **Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking**

€2 billion public-private initiative

Circular

Bio-based Europe



European Union Represented by the European Commission

Bio-based Industries Consortium Europe programme

Part of Horizon

Launched in 2021,

operates

until 2031

Contributing to the European Green Deal

Building on the success of its predecessor BBI JU





# Established by the Council regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021

Along with 8 other institutionalised partnerships







health

innovative

nitiative











## **CBE JU general objectives**







Accelerate the **innovation** process and development of bio-based innovative solutions Accelerate **market deployment** of the existing mature bio-based innovative solutions Ensure a high level of **environmental performance** of bio-based industrial systems





Biobased Industries

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP





## From strategy to implementation







**Technology Readiness Level (TRL)** 

**CSA:** Coordination and Support Actions (no link with TRLs)







**Strong interest from SMEs** in the CBE JU: About 1 out of 3 beneficiaries are SMEs. SMEs represent a major share of private sector applicants.

## 2014-2024

## **CBE JU beneficiaries**

(incl. multiple participations)



32% small and medium-sized enterprises



## Highlights of SME participation (info from Annual Activity Report 2022)

- Programme extremely attractive for SMEs
- Funding to SMEs nearly double the overall target set for SME funding under Horizon Europe.
- In CBE first call 2022: 77% of SME applicants participated in the frame of Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) proposals, proof that SMEs are important contributors to high-risk, collaborative R&D projects within the European biobased industries.



EU contribution requested by SMEs









## CBE JU-funded Innovation Actions

Flagship biorefineryDemonstration plants





# Case stories involving insect sector



## **Examples of BBI- CBE projects delivering insect-based innovations:**



**Technology Readiness Level (TRL)** 

## Insect-base proteins



FIAgship demonstration of industrial scale production of nutrient Resources from Mealworms to develop a bioeconomY New Generation



CBE JU contribution: €19.6 million

Duration: June 2019 – June 2025

SMEs: Coordinator (YNSECT) including 8/20 (\*)

- Addresses the sustainable food chain challenges of today in a world in which the population will reach 9 billion by 2050
- Strategically located: next to an existing agro-industrial site, and on several logistic pathways, in order to reduce the sensibility to insect feed price volatility.
- Able to produce more than 5500 tons of live insects per month processed into 1500 tons of proteins and 400 tons of oil per month, reaching a productions rate never demonstrated before for insect's proteins production plant in the world
- Upscaling 50 times Ÿnsite Demo plant currently up and running : Already biggest mealworm farm in the world
- Relying on a strong and unique value chain with 20 partners



#### 2024 - FARMYNG First-of-its-kind automated industrial plant for premium proteins from farmed insects





### Full completion of the building Located in Poulainville, near *Amiens*, Northern France.





#### inno proteín

InnoProtein: New sustainable proteins for food, feed and nonfood bio-based applications



**CBE JU contribution**:  $\in$  4,59 million

**Duration**: June 2023 – May 2027

Feedstock: Single Cell Proteins (microalgae, bacteria and fungi)

+ insect-based protein

SMEs: 10/14 (\*)



- The project tackles the urgent need for new and sustainable protein sources with high nutritional quality, healthy, and functional properties. The EU is particularly vulnerable as it imports 70% of its protein-rich crops.
- InnoProtein addresses this challenge by **tapping into unexploited sustainable protein sources** to accelerate Europe's moves towards protein self-sufficiency.
- The project aims to obtain single-cell proteins from sources including microalgae, bacteria and fungi and proteins from insects.
- They will be used in **food**, **animal feed and non-food bio-based products** such as stimulants and plastics within a circular and zero-waste perspective.

Projects that use insects (biotech) to transform biomass in intermediates or/and deliver other of bio-based products



Development of innovative biotic symbiosis for plastic biodegradation and synthesis to solve their end-of-life challenges in the agriculture and food industries

- **BBI JU contribution**: € 4,4 million
  - **Duration**: June 2020 May 2024
  - **Feedstock:** Plastics Waste (Food packaging and Agriculture)

### SMEs: 7/18 (\*)





- RECOVER develops biotechnology-based processes, involving the combined action of new enzymes, microbial communities, insects, and earthworms, for sustainable management of plastic waste from food packaging and agricultural applications (Agri-food waste plastics-AWP).
- The new bio-recycling route results in **biofertilizers and bioplastic formulations** for application in agriculture (mulching films, sticks, pots), food packaging (trays, rigid containers, films) and coatings based on chitin/chitosan extracted from insects using innovative process.
- RECOVER solutions are suitable for adding value to the plastics entering waste management systems that are currently landfilled or incinerated, and for reducing the amount of non-biodegradable plastics reaching the environment.





Insect larvae

InDIRECT: Direct and indirect biorefinery technologies for conversion of organic side streams

**BBI JU contribution**: € 1,35 million

Duration: November 2016 – October 2019

Feedstock: agri-food side-streams, insects

SMEs: 4/9 (\*)

Three-step bio-refinery model used to convert the varying plant-based side stream feedstocks into a homogenous biomass. In a unique and innovative approach, **insects (Back soldier fly & Lesser mealworm) are used for the conversion** 

 The resulting insect biomass is processed (fractionalised) into crude extracts, which will then be purified and converted into **new products and compounds** (e.g., proteins and oligopeptides, Lipids, chitin, chitosan and derivatives, N-light compost and minor compounds).

(\*) SME data based on a self-declaration of entities data extracted from CORDA



Zero Waste Ligno-Cellulosic Biorefineries by Integrated Lignin Valorisation (Zelcor)

ZECOR

- C BBI JU contribution: € 5.3 million
  - Duration: October 2016 February 2021
  - Feedstock: biorefinery lignocellulosic side streams

SMEs: 8/17 (\*)



Nacto Liana-Collulasic Bin-Relineries

- The objective was to demonstrate the feasibility of transforming lignocellulose biorefinery recalcitrant side-streams into high added-value products
- The originality was to combine chemical and enzymatic catalysis with insect-based conversion, in order to produce bioactive phenolic extracts, aromatic chemical intermediates, and functional biopolymers (colloidal lignin, chitin and chitosans)
- The main achievements were the production of new biocatalysts by exploring microbial diversity, the design of new routes for lignin conversion, the elucidation of structure-properties relationships, and the assessment of five new value chains in terms of carbon footprint, economics and safety

# Thank you so much for your attention!



**Circular Bio-based Europe** Joint Undertaking

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