

Promote insects as proteins

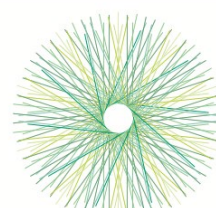
© Foucard et Pampouille, 2020




The conventional production of broiler feed mainly relies on resource-intensive crops, leading to issues such as deforestation (for soya), habitat loss, and overexploitation of agricultural land. Insects such as mealworms and black soldier fly larvae emerge as an eco-friendly and efficient alternative, being rich in proteins, essential amino acids, and micronutrients. Incorporating insects into broiler chicken feed offers a solution to the overdependence on conventional protein sources like soy, thereby mitigating the ecological footprint associated with their cultivation, including importations and deforestation. Insects can be farmed from organic waste and by-products, which they convert into sources of protein. Beyond being a resilient and cost-effective protein source in a farming context, their living form could serve as environmental enrichment, promoting foraging and exploration behaviour, thus enhancing bird welfare. However, insect welfare also needs to be acknowledged and considered when implementing this practice. Despite the clear benefits of this practice for the preservation of the environment, challenges persist in achieving the development of a robust insect farming industry, economically affordable and able to control sanitary aspects.



PARTICIPATING IN



eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

funded by  European Commission