

For immediate release

The largest international conference on insects consumption live next week

Insects are more than ever recognized as a protein rich, efficient and environmentally friendly alternative food and livestock feed resource. Sign of this growing interest amongst business leaders, investors and scientists, the largest ever held international conference on the topic will go live – virtually - from November 23rd to 26th 2020.

More than 400 delegates have already registered to *Insects to Feed the World* where 130 scientific communications - 70% from the international scientific community - will be presented. Topics covered range from the acceptability of insects in our diets through product development and marketing solutions, to insect farming automation and optimization. Novel technologies to upcycle organic waste with insects, relying on circular economy concepts, will also be a central theme of the congress.

A special live investment panel moderated by Natural Products Canada will gather investors and successful companies and allow emerging start-ups to ask their burning questions about the path to becoming successful enterprises. The global market for edible insects is growing at 40% per year and projected to be worth over \$700 m by 2024. Insects are currently integrated in many commercially available products for human and animal consumption. Insect farming is fast becoming a profitable, sustainable method of feeding the world in an environmentally friendly way. Recent large non traditional investments from private equity and institutional investors, are very encouraging signs that this is a booming sector of global economies.

Eating of Insects is a historical fact. Surveys show that environmental motivations are driving consumer demand for this protein. From local villages to large-scale multinational corporations, the use of insects to recycle waste and provide food sources is a dynamic example of the circular economy. Urban agriculture initiative further close the gap to local food security. The utilization of scalable technologies is lowering the cost of production, leading to lower costs of protein sources.

Academics, government organizations, industrial partners and interested citizens are invited to attend this virtual edition of *Insects to Feed the World* conference organized by the local committee under the coordination of Laval University in Québec, Canada.

Please join us to help promote *Insects as food and Feed*

For media inquiries

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Citations

« We are delighted to welcome over 400 guests from all around the world to the biggest ever conference on edible insects. This virtual conference comprising top scientists and industry leaders seeks to mark a paradigm shift in the production of sustainable proteins and better management of food waste. » - **Grant Vandenberg, Chair of the local organizing committee Insects to Feed the World 2020 and Professor at the Animal Nutrition Department of Laval University in Québec, Canada**

« The sector of edible insects has vastly expanded since the publication of the FAO report on future prospects for food and feed security. Research is becoming more structured and aligned with the emergence of sectorial industries. Introducing insects on our menus, something which seemed impossible only a few years ago in western countries, is becoming a reality and this is an essential asset for food security in a climate changing world. » - **Arnold van Huis, member of the International organizing committee Insects to Feed the World 2020 and Emeritus professor of Tropical Entomology, Wageningen University, The Netherlands**

« Though they make a delight for all free-range chicken and trouts in our lakes and rivers, fly larvae were once solely seen as a nuisance to be suppressed by waste managers and animal farmers. Today, we begin to understand that mimicking nature and actually farming these same flies could make for a profitable industry. » - **Jeff Tomberlin, member of the International organizing committee Insects to Feed the World 2020 and professor in the Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University, USA**

« Insects are keystone species of our ecosystems and can play a role in alleviating the intense pressure of agricultural production, food waste and organic waste management : some of the most impactful human activities. Scientists are at the forefront of insect-based technologies - inspired by nature - to decrease our environmental footprint. International conferences are essential venues to synergize global efforts and facilitate technology transfer to the emerging edible insect industry. » - **Louise Hénault-Ethier, member of the local organizing committee Insects to Feed the World 2020, Director or research, development and Innovation, TriCycle, Post-doctoral researcher, Laval University, Science Projects Manager, David Suzuki Foundation, Montreal, Canada**

« Entosystem goal is to unleash the superpowers of insects in a cleaner, more sustainable and responsible food system. We've been breeding black soldier fly in an industrial scale and producing tons of dry insect from food waste source for a while. We are really happy to see event like Insect feed the world having so much traction from investor, government and from the agriculture business in general. We are way pass the artisanal stage of this industry and we now have a full recognition of our accomplishment. » - **Cédric Provost, President and Cofonder of Entosystem, Sherbrooke, Canada**

Direct contacts available for interviews

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Facts about insect consumption and environmental benefits

More than 2000 species of edible insects are regularly consumed by 2 billion people around the world. Some populations eat a large amount (300 g of caterpillars per household per week in Congo) of a wide variety of insects (up to 200 different species in South East Asia). Many regions rely on wild harvest and countries like India still lack commercial scale productions. Insects consumption is far from being limited to subsistence as they are considered a high end delicacy in many regions. Few people know that indigenous communities of North America consumed about 90 different species of insects, like sun-dried salty crickets from the Great Basin region of the United States or large carpenter ants in the St-Lawrence Valley. Surveys show that many Europeans and North American consumers have already tasted insects and more than 90% of those who dared are willing to eat them again. A current challenge for the industry is now to consolidate regular consumption by incorporating this protein in familiar and delicious meals and snacks.

Meat consumption and demand is forecasted to climb by more than 70% between 2000 and 2030 and a 60 MT gap in production is projected. Insects contain 55 to 75% protein. Mealworms contain more iron, magnesium, manganese and zinc than a beef sirloin steak. Edible insects production is far more efficient and ecological than conventional meats requiring up to 6 times less grains for an equivalent amount of proteins produced. Organics are the heaviest fraction of our waste and their landfilling is responsible for 20% of methane emissions in Canada. Insects raised on agroindustrial side streams could further decrease the environmental footprint of livestock feed yielding more sustainably farmed salmons and chickens. While agriculture accounts for 70% of the freshwater consumption worldwide, one fifth of this precious resource is necessary to produce insects instead of cattle. In a world that rapidly needs to adapt and mitigate climate change, we cannot neglect a source of proteins that emits 10 to 100 times less greenhouse gases than conventional meats.

Event information

Insects To Feed the World Virtual Conference 2020

- Conference Information: <http://ifw2020.org/>
- Scientific Program: <http://ifw2020.org/scientific-program>
- Registration: <http://ifw2020.org/registration>
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/IFW_2020

As the world's leading conference in all aspects related to insects as food and feed, Insects to Feed the World 2020 Virtual Conference will provide a venue for

intellectual and enlightening discussions of ideas at the emerging and frontier of the sector. The conference program will be broad with topics including, but not limited to:

- Insect as food (ethno-entomology)
 - Harvesting and traditional role of eating insects
 - Sustainable consumption and food security
 - Perception, marketing and economics
- Insect production systems
 - Processing organic side streams
 - Optimization, engineering, automatation and security
 - Genetics, nutrition, physiology, health & ethics of edible insects
 - Waste management
- Processing, conservation and food safety of insect products
- Quality control, legislation, and policy
- Insects as feed
 - Alternative protein sources and diet formulations
 - Marketing an economics
- Circular economy & environmental sustainability
- Non-food applications of insect
- International actions for the development of the insect industry

References

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