

Insect rearing and processing for food, feed and bio-based chemicals

The production of insects is far more sustainable than the rearing of (other) farm animals and this opens perspectives for insects as food, feed and also as a source of new biochemicals. This presentation will provide an overview of the insects currently produced at large scale in Europe, with focus on the mealworm (*Tenebrio molitor*) for human food and feed and the black soldier fly (*Hermetia illucens*) for feed. The legislative framework and future evolutions will be explained. In addition, insight will be provided in the insect-related research going on at Lab4Food, KU Leuven, and at VITO, with emphasis on the Insect Pilot Plant, a project funded by the European Regional Development Fund. Further the opportunities of insects to convert side-streams from agricultural activities into proteins, lipids and chitine, after a biorefinery process, will be discussed by presenting the goals and findings from the H2020 BBI-InDIRECT project (www.bbi-indirect.eu).