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# Using insect larvae to upcycle waste organic residues to produce novel animal feed ingredients

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# Novel applications of insect meals as '*new*' animal feed ingredients:

*Aquaculture*, 24 (1981) 103–109

Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam — Printed in The Netherlands

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## **SOLDIER FLY LARVAE AS FEED IN COMMERCIAL FISH PRODUCTION**

**K. BONDARI and D.C. SHEPPARD**

*Department of Entomology and Fisheries, Coastal Plain Experiment Station, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793 (U.S.A.)*

(Accepted 29 October 1980)

- ▶ So what has changed?

# Agrifood sector: Our collective challenge...

GLOBAL  
POPULATION  
GROWTH<sup>4</sup>

7B → 9B  
2016 2050

AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTION  
NEEDS TO  
INCREASE<sup>4</sup>

70% → 2050

TODAY'S CROP  
PRODUCTION  
ALLOCATION<sup>5</sup>

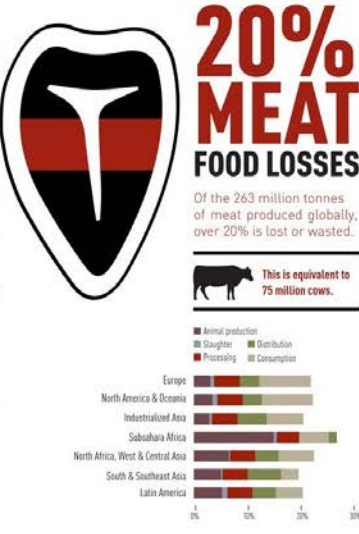
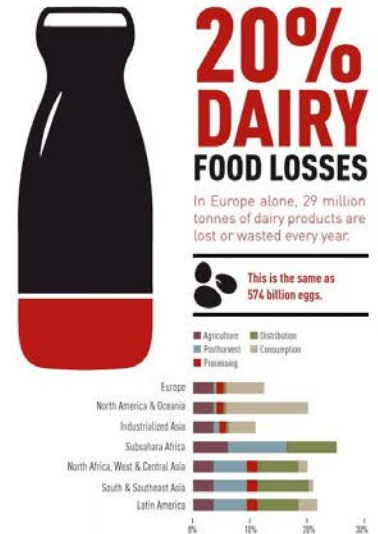
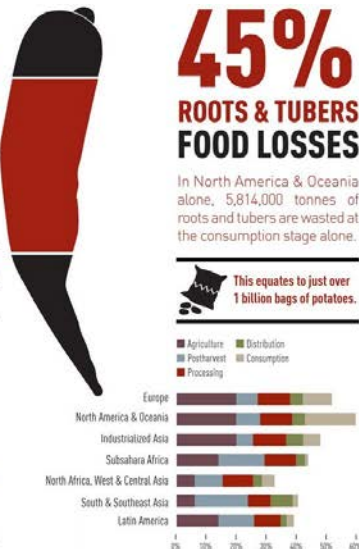
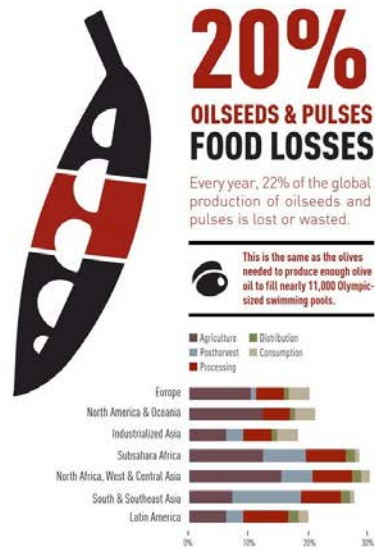
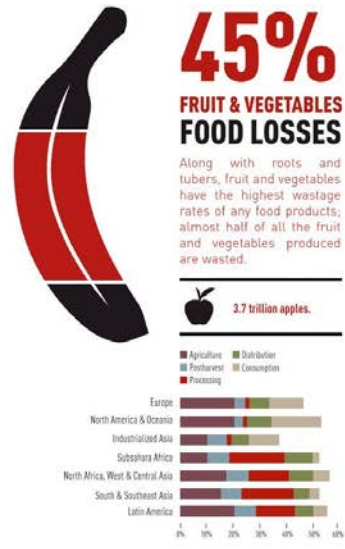
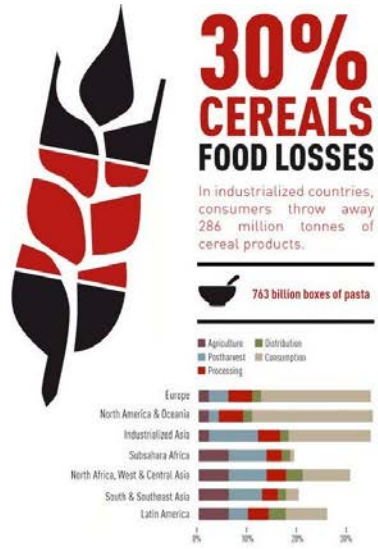
  
62%  
HUMAN  
FOOD

  
35%  
ANIMAL  
FEED

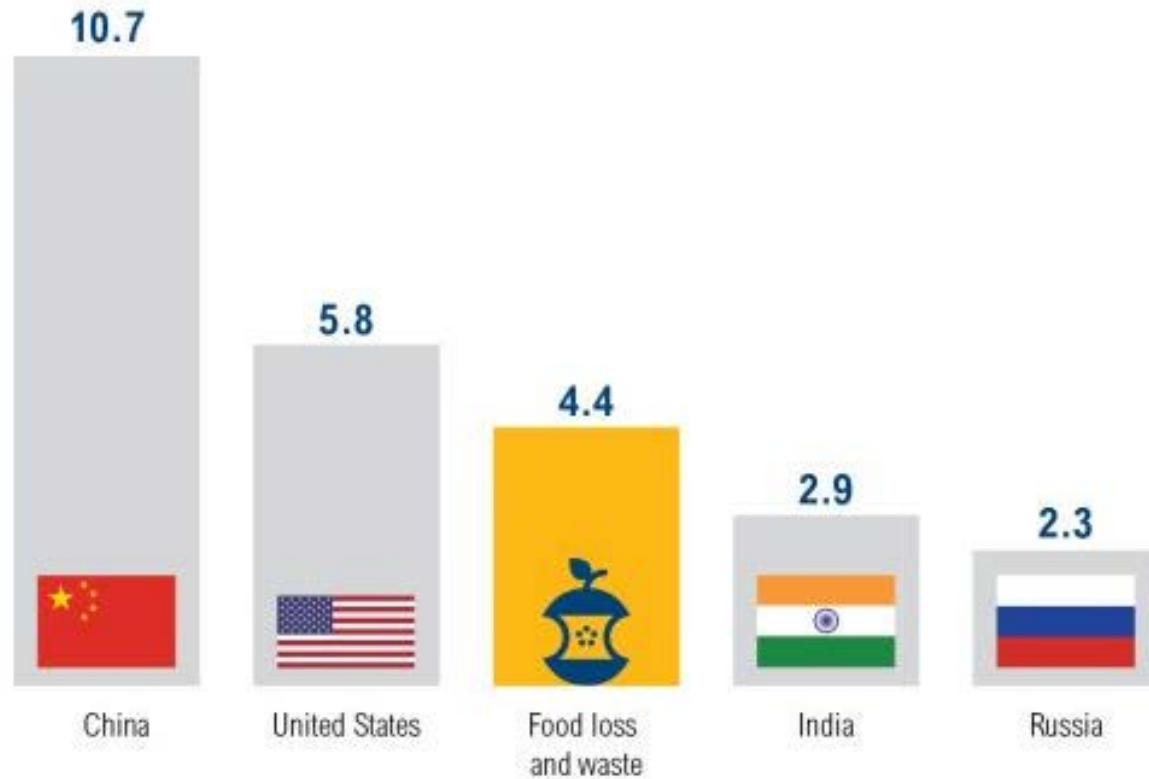
  
3%  
BIOENERGY CROPS,  
SEED & OTHER  
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

- ▶ Need to find ways to produce more with less...

# Food Waste: Previously an issue largely ignored...



# Food waste and GHG emissions



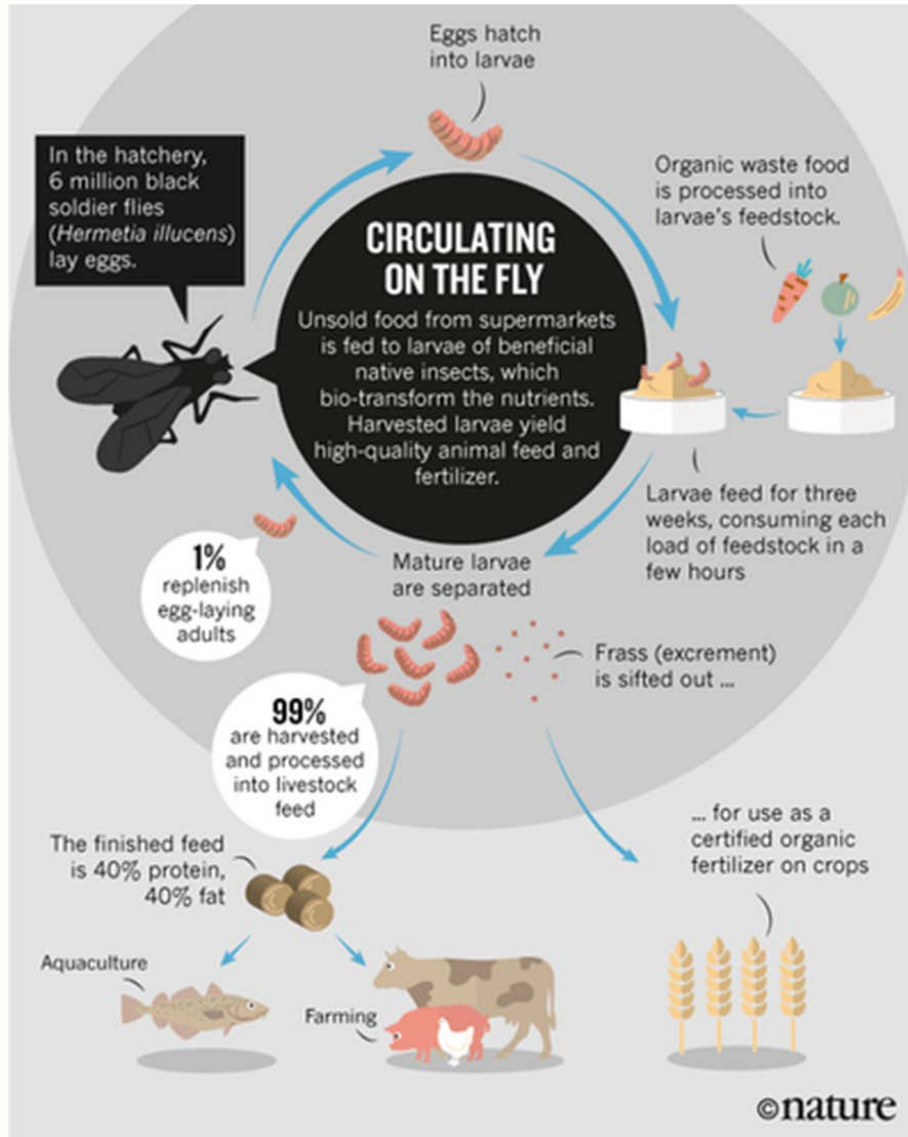
GT CO<sub>2</sub>E (2011/12)\*

\* Figures reflect all six anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, including those from land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF). Country data is for 2012 while the food loss and waste data is for 2011 (the most recent data available). To avoid double counting, the food loss and waste emissions figure should not be added to the country figures.

Source: CAIT, 2015; FAO, 2015, *Food wastage footprint & climate change*. Rome: FAO.

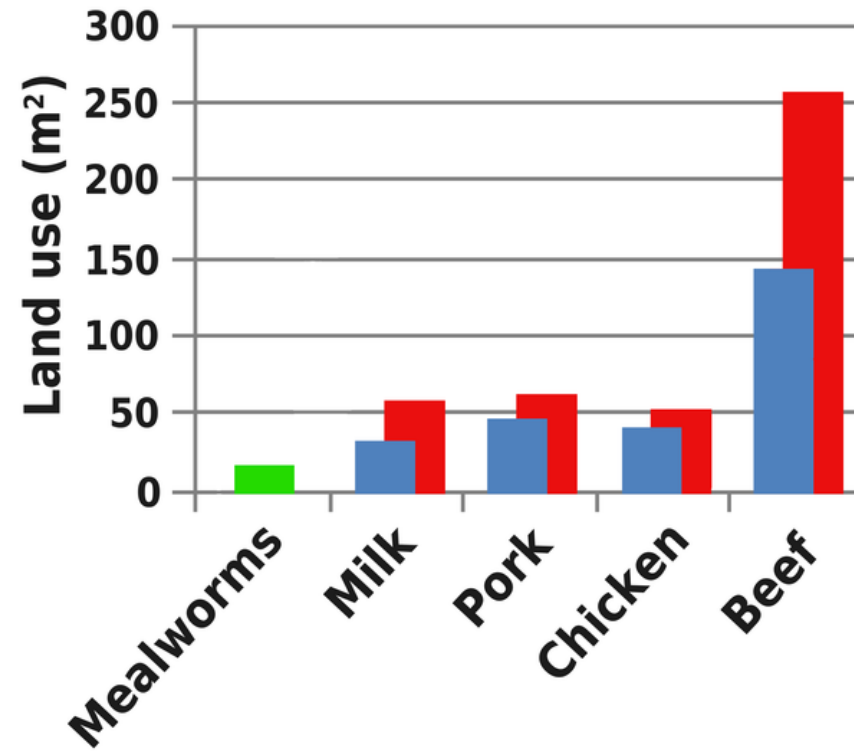
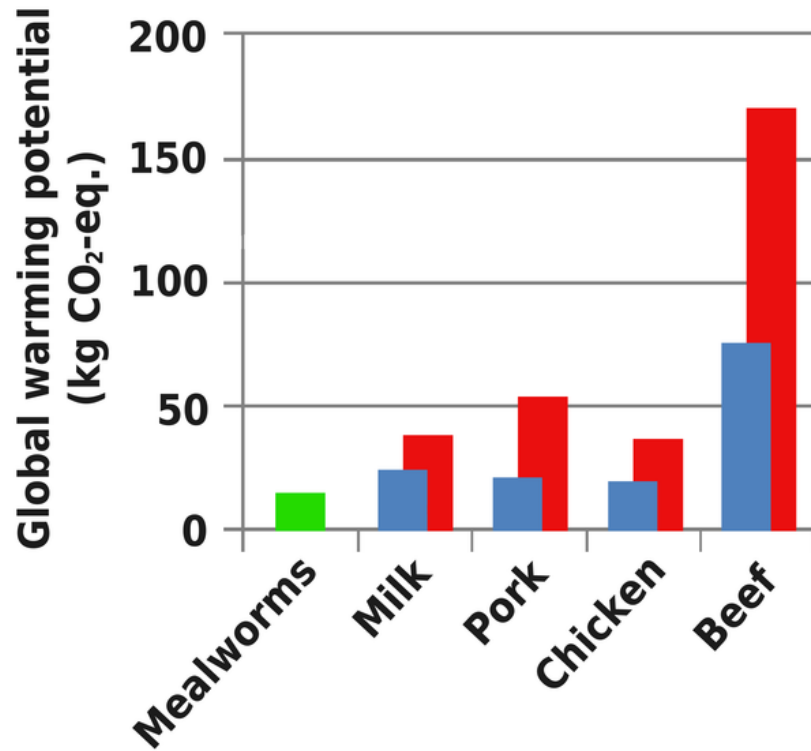


# Exploiting the ecological services of insect larvae to upcycle wastes



[www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com)

# Environmental impact of mealworms vs. other animal products: Life Cycle Analysis



Oonincx DGAB, de Boer IJM (2012) Environmental Impact of the Production of Mealworms as a Protein Source for Humans – A Life Cycle Assessment. PLOS ONE 7(12): e51145. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0051145>  
<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0051145>

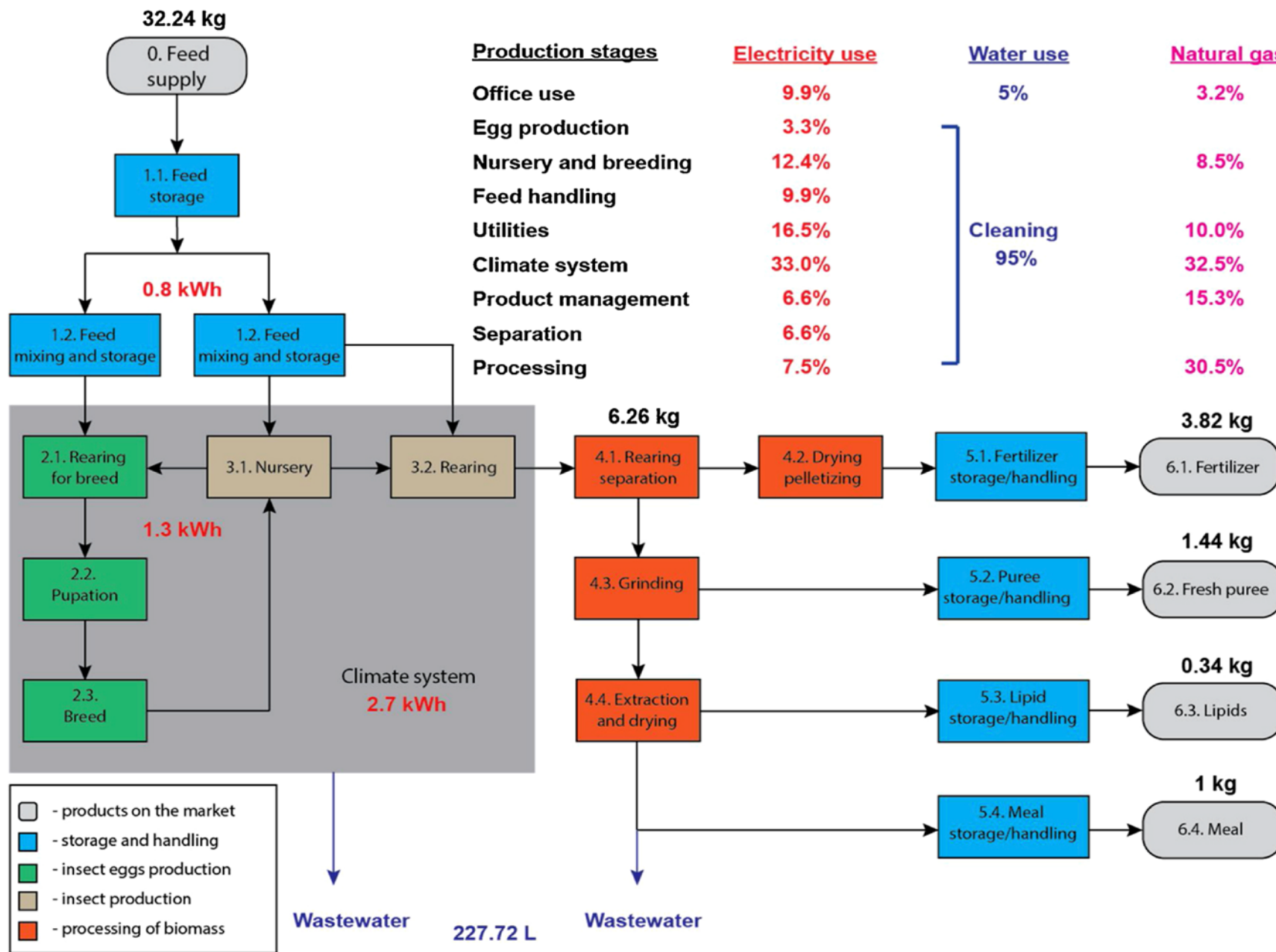
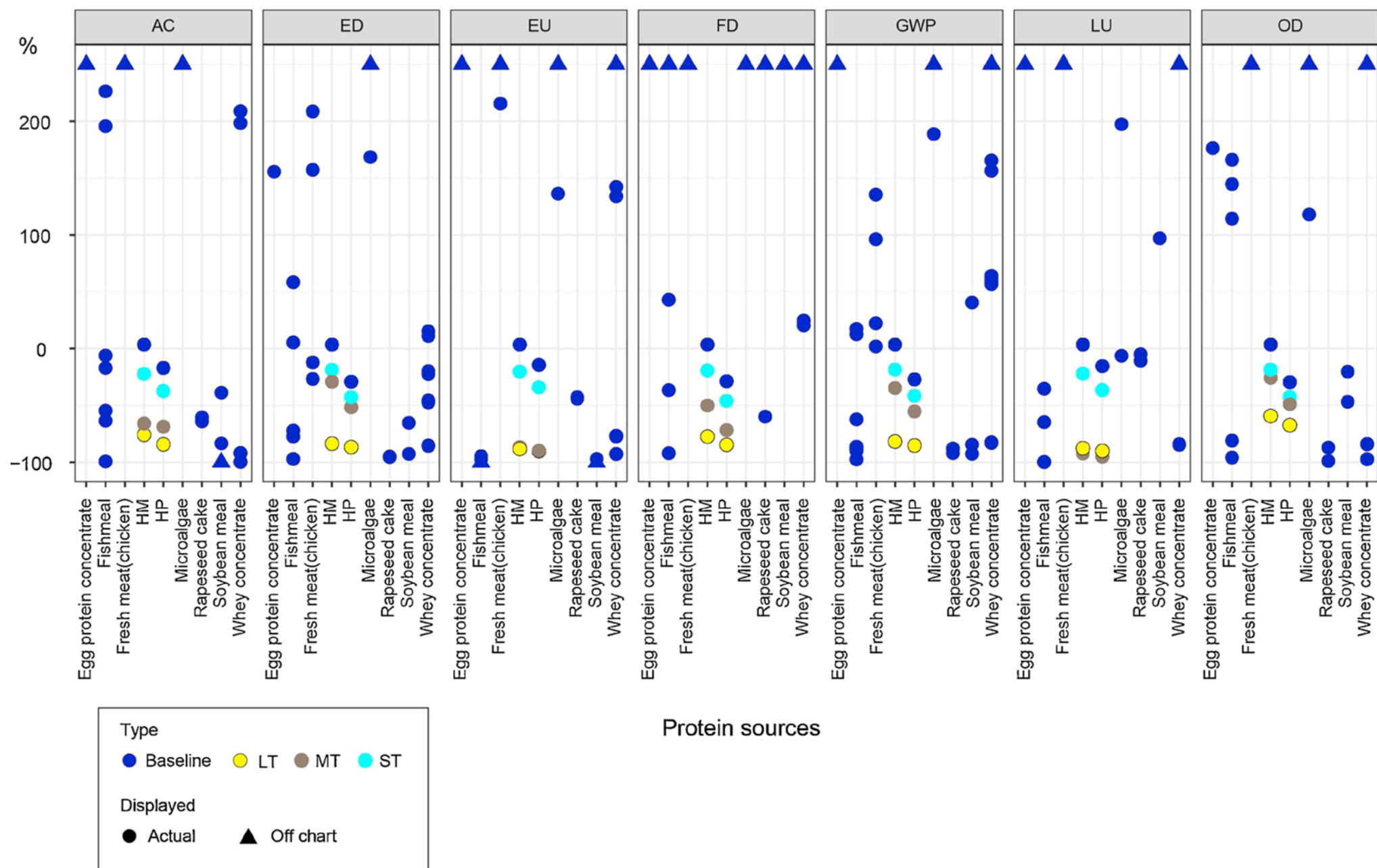


Fig. 1. System boundaries of the study (attributional modelling) including inputs distribution and relative mass flows.



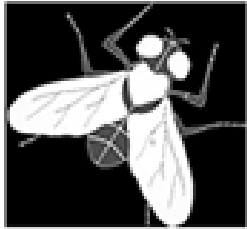


**Fig. 3.** Environmental impacts of different sources of proteins (dry matter basis) weighted against HM, GWP – global warming potential; OD – ozone depletion; AC – acidification; EU – eutrophication; ED – energy demand; FD – freshwater depletion; LU – land use, relative impacts are censored at -100% and 250% to maintain the readability of the plot and as triangles at these limiting values, references for the analysis of environmental impacts are in Table A.2.

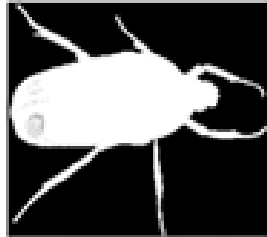
# Current species of interest:

50%

*O. Diptera*

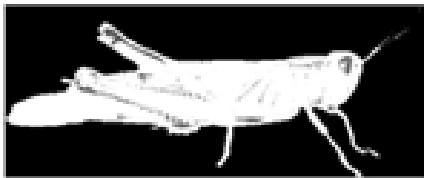


*O. Coleoptera*

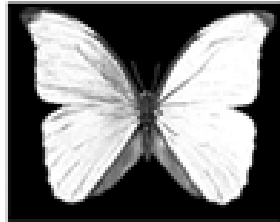


11%

8%



*O. Orthoptera*



*O. Lepidoptera*

29%



# Emerging opportunities: Insect meals vs. fish & soy meals



Constituents	Black soldier fly larvae	Housefly maggot meal	Mealworm	Fishmeal	Soymeal
Crude protein	42.1 (56.9)*	50.4 (62.1)	52.8 (82.6)	70.6	51.8
Lipids	26.0	18.9	36.1	9.9	2.0
Calcium	7.56	0.47	0.27	4.34	0.39
Phosphorus	0.90	1.60	0.78	2.79	0.69
Ca:P ratio	8.4	0.29	0.35	1.56	0.57

*Adapted from Tran et al. 2015*

# Fishmeal replacement: not only restricted to aquaculture



**3 - 5 % chick**



**5- 7.5% piglet**



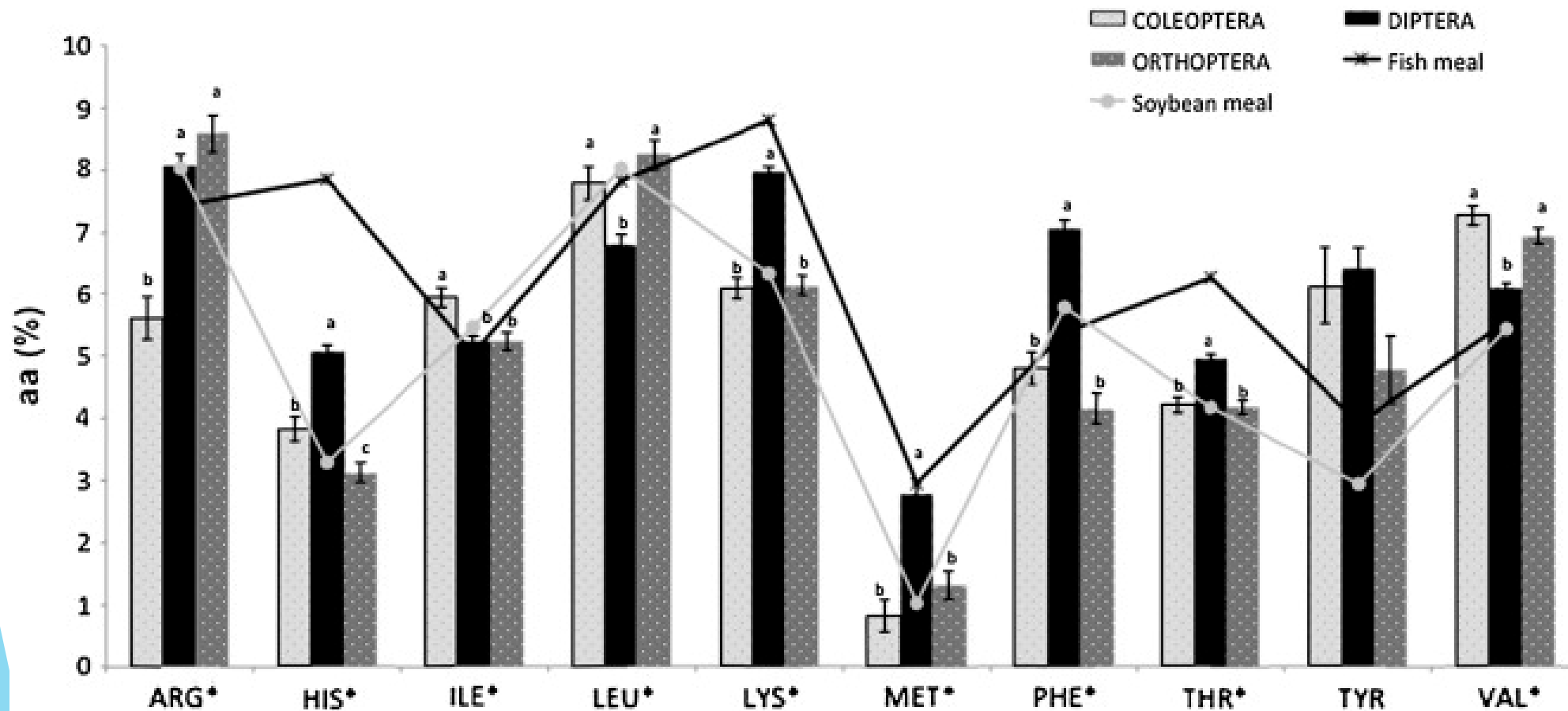
**5-30%**



- ▶ High-priced commodity, qty/price fluxuations, sustainability issues

# Amino acid profiles vs fish meal

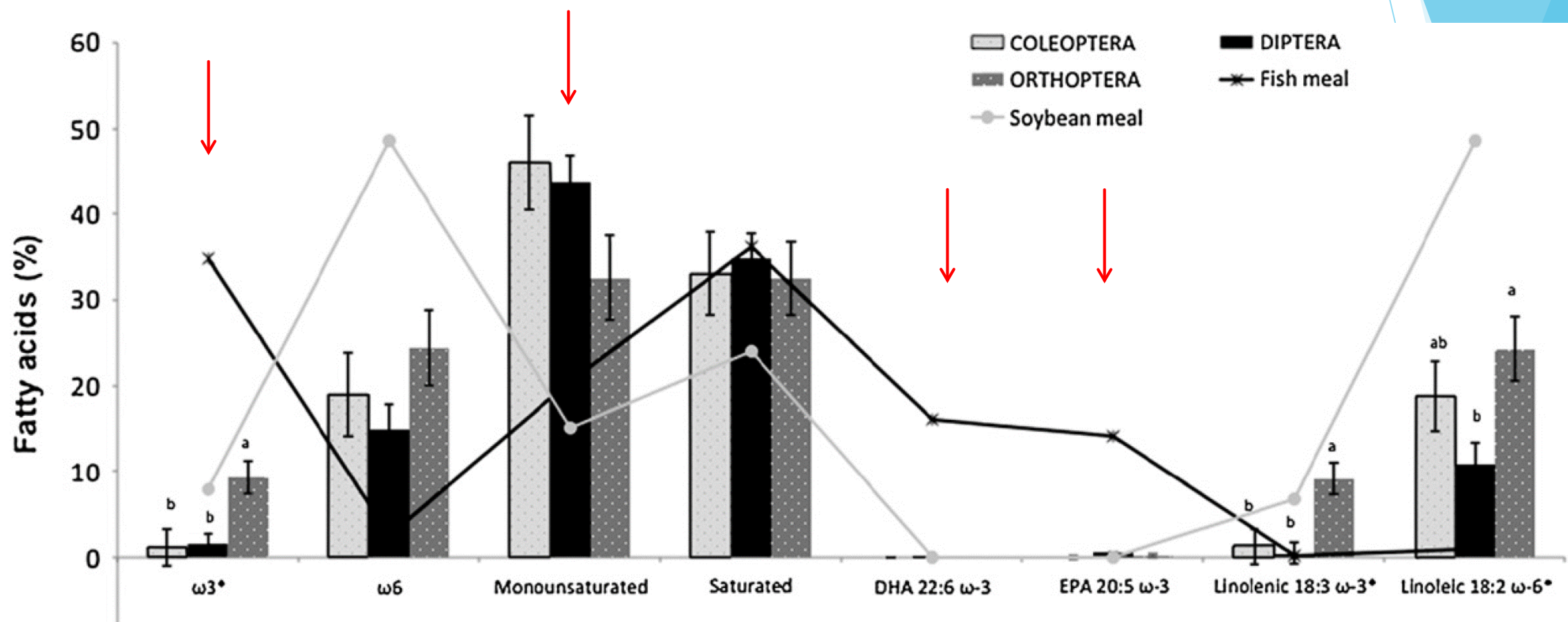
Profile of dipterans (*Hermetia et Musca*) in essential amino acids are very similar to that of fish meal





# Fatty acid profiles vs fish meal

Fatty acid profiles are very different from fish meal










*animals*



*Review*

# Animals Fed Insect-Based Diets: State-of-the-Art on Digestibility, Performance and Product Quality

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<sup>3</sup> Institute of Science of Food Production, National Research Council, Largo Paolo Braccini 2, 10095 Grugliasco (TO), Italy; [francesco.gai@ispa.cnr.it](mailto:francesco.gai@ispa.cnr.it)

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**Table 2.** Dietary insect meal inclusion in avian diets and related effects on apparent digestibility coefficients in comparison with the control diet used in the different trials.

Avian Specie	Insect Species	Insect Form	% Insect Inclusion	Days of Feeding	Impact on Nutrient Digestibility	Reference	
Broiler chickens	Full-fat TM and HI	Larva meal	25%	9	No influence on the CTTAD of the nutrients, except for the CTTAD of the EE: HI more digestible than TM.	[19]	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HI dried (100 °C)</li> <li>• HI dried (65 °C)</li> <li>• Defatted HI dried (65 °C)</li> </ul>	Pre-pupa meal	50%	7	Higher AIDC in the TM group than in the HI.	[22]	
				50%			Higher CTTAD values for the nutrients in the defatted HI pre-pupae meal dried at 65 °C diet than the control and the diets with HI pre-pupae meals dried at 65 °C.
				40%			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partially defatted HI</li> <li>• Highly defatted HI</li> </ul>	Larva meal	25%	9	Influence on the CTTAD of the EE and GE, which were more digestible in the HI partially defatted group than the HI totally defatted.	[21]		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry-rendered HI</li> <li>• Extruded HI</li> <li>• Full-fat HI</li> </ul>			No effect on the AA digestibility except for the glutamic acid, proline and serine that were more digestible in the HI highly defatted.	[23]		
		Larva meal	50%	5		Higher CTTAD of the CP, EE, ash and CF in the dry-rendered larvae diet than the other groups.	
Broiler quails	Full fat TM		29.65%	32	Decrease in the ADC of the DM, CP and OM.	[26]	
	TM	Oil	5%	28	Increase in the CTTAD of the EE.	[31]	
	MD	Larva meal	30%	7	Increase in the ADC of the CP and AA.	[29]	
	Defatted HI	Larva meal	10% and 15%	11	Higher CTTAD of EE in the 10% group than the other groups.	[24]	
Broiler ducks	HI1 (reared on layer mash)	Larva meal	10%	15	No significant effect on the CTTAD of the DM, OM and CP.	[25]	
	HI2 (reared on 50:50 layer mash and fish offal)				Higher AME for the HI-fed quails than the control diet.		
	Defatted HI	Larva meal	3%, 6% and 9%	47	HI2: higher CTTAD for the DM and OM than the HI1.		
Laying hens	Partiallydefatted HI	Larva meal	7.3% and 14.6%	140	Lower CTTAD of the CP during the starter period with the inclusion of 9% HI than the other diets.	[30]	
	Highly defatted HI	Larva meal	17%	147	Higher CTTAD of the EE during the grower and finisher periods than the control diet.		
					Decrease in the AIDC of the DM, OM and CP.	[27]	
					Decrease in the AIDC of the DM, OM and CP.	[28]	

Note: HI: *Hemeticia illucens*; TM: *Tenebrio molitor*; MD: *Musca domestica*; CTTAD: apparent digestibility coefficients of the total tract; AIDC: apparent ileal digestibility coefficients; ADC: apparent digestibility coefficient; DM: dry matter; OM: organic matter; CP: crude protein; EE: ether extract; CF: crude fiber.

# Rapidly growing database of feeding insects to farmed animal species



*Salmonids*



*Tilapia*



*Shrimp*



*Grower and finishing pigs*



*Layer*

- Substitution of fishmeal: 7.5 to 100%
- From no impact to documented issues (species dependant):
  - Palatability
    - Feed intake
  - Growth performance
    - Weight gain
    - FCR
    - Protein efficiency
  - Product quality
    - ↓ Lipid
    - ↓ HUFA n-3
    - Δ Colour
  - Immune system stimulation (chitin)

- ▶ Juvenile rainbow trout (180 g);
- ▶ Inclusion of 0, 25%, 50% black soldier fly (HI) larvae meal;
- ▶ Growth, digestibility, nutrient budgets, carcass composition, intestinal morphology.

- ▶ Juvenile rainbow trout (45 g);
- ▶ Inclusion of 0, 6.6%, 13.2%, 26.4% black soldier fly (HI) larvae meal;
- ▶ Growth, digestibility, nutrient budgets, carcass composition metabolic impacts.

RESEARCH

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## Evaluation of the suitability of a partially defatted black soldier fly (*Hermetia illucens* L.) larvae meal as ingredient for rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* Walbaum) diets

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Aquaculture

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/aquaculture](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/aquaculture)

The oil fraction and partially defatted meal of black soldier fly larvae (*Hermetia illucens*) affect differently growth performance, feed efficiency, nutrient deposition, blood glucose and lipid digestibility of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

André Dumas<sup>a,\*</sup>, Thiago Raggi<sup>a</sup>, Justin Barkhouse<sup>a</sup>, Elizabeth Lewis<sup>b</sup>, Erika Weltzien<sup>c</sup>



# Growth performance

Items	HI0	HI25	HI50	SEM	P-value
Survival,%	97.4	98.3	100.0	0.681	0.298
IBW,g	178.9	178.8	179.1	0.099	0.579
FBW,g	539.3	545.4	538.0	5.098	0.849
WG,g	360.5	366.5	358.9	5.079	0.840
SGR,%/d	1.40	1.42	1.41	0.013	0.935
FCR	0.90	0.88	0.90	0.009	0.739
PER	2.46	2.52	2.47	0.024	0.579
FR,%/d	1.33	1.32	1.33	0.005	0.442

Diet	IBW (g/fish)	FBW (g/fish)	WG (g/fish)	TGC (g <sup>1/3</sup> /°C*d)	FI (g/fish)	FCR**
A HI 0	47.8 (1.9)	341.5 (6.0) <sup>a</sup>	293.7 (4.9) <sup>a</sup>	0.289 (0.005) <sup>a</sup>	232.7 (3.5)	0.78 (0.01) <sup>d</sup>
B HI 6.6	45.5 (1.2)	325.7 (11.6) <sup>a</sup>	280.2 (10.5) <sup>a</sup>	0.286 (0.004) <sup>a</sup>	225.8 (8.5)	0.81 (0.02) <sup>c</sup>
C HI 13.2	46.6 (0.8)	319.2 (5.5) <sup>a</sup>	272.6 (4.7) <sup>a</sup>	0.279 (0.004) <sup>a</sup>	229.7 (9.9)	0.84 (0.01) <sup>b</sup>
D HI 26.4	45.9 (0.1)	286.6 (12.1) <sup>b</sup>	240.6 (2.1) <sup>b</sup>	0.260 (0.010) <sup>b</sup>	219.7 (13.0)	0.91 (0.00) <sup>a</sup>

# Insect meal for feeding animals: many questions remain...

- ▶ Despite positive tendencies, many uncontrolled variables in animal feeding studies:
  - ▶ Biological differences (fish size/age, duration, dietary effects, etc);
  - ▶ Effects of insect matrix:
    - ▶ Provenance, age, growing medium, processing;

Requires standardized methodologies for insect rearing and animal studies.

*Journal of Insects as Food and Feed*, 2018; 4(1): 1-4



## Can diets containing insects promote animal health?

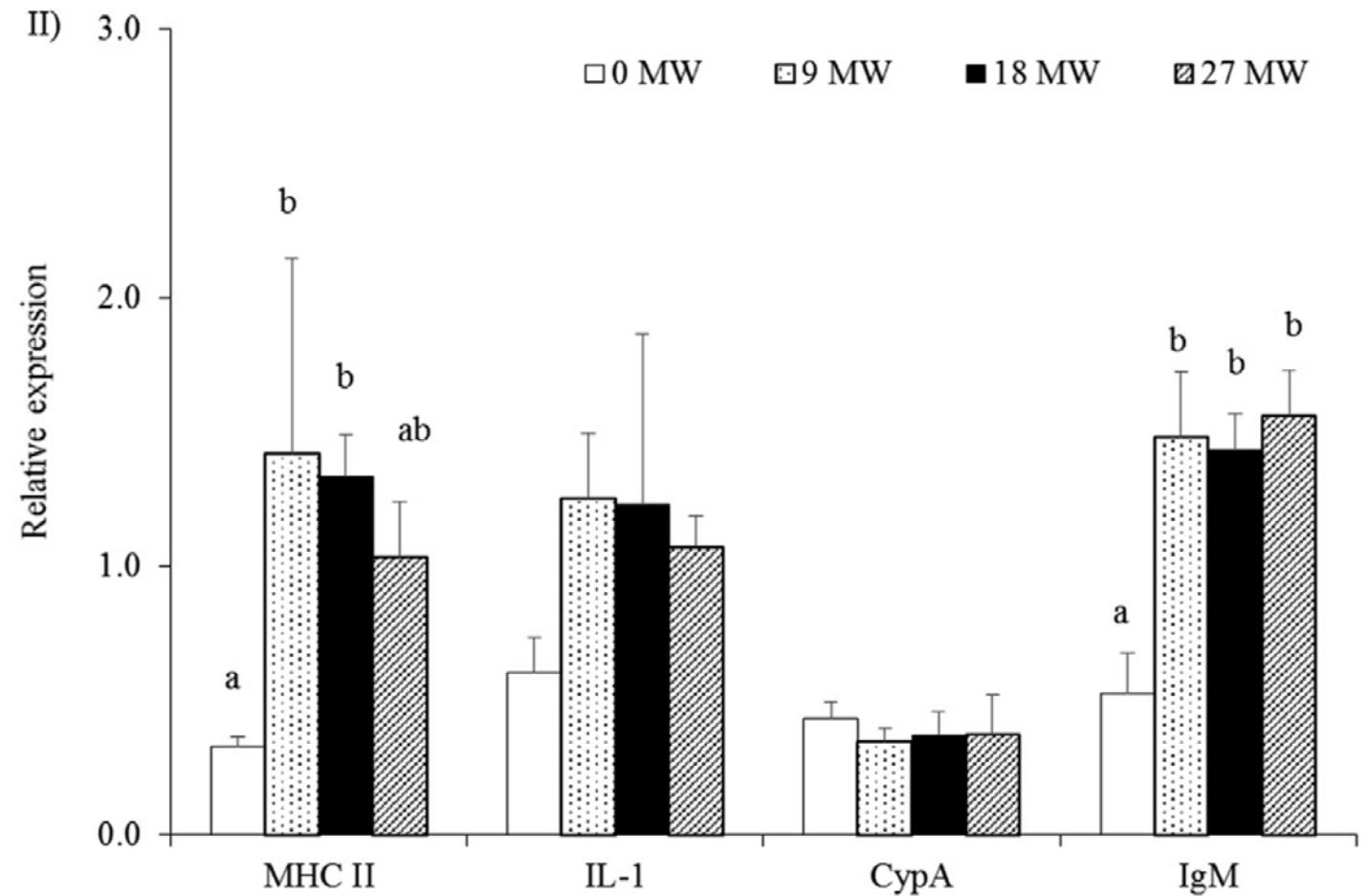
**L. Gasco<sup>1</sup>, M. Finke<sup>2</sup> and A. van Huis<sup>3\*</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>Department of Agricultural, Forest, and Food Sciences (DISAFA), University of Turin, Largo Paolo B. Grugliasco, Italy; <sup>2</sup>Mark Finke LLC, 17028 E Wildcat Dr, Rio Verde, AZ 85263, USA; <sup>3</sup>Laboratory of Entomology, Wageningen University & Research, P.O. Box 16, 6700 AA Wageningen, the Netherlands; [editor-in-chief@insectsaasfooa](mailto:editor-in-chief@insectsaasfooa)*

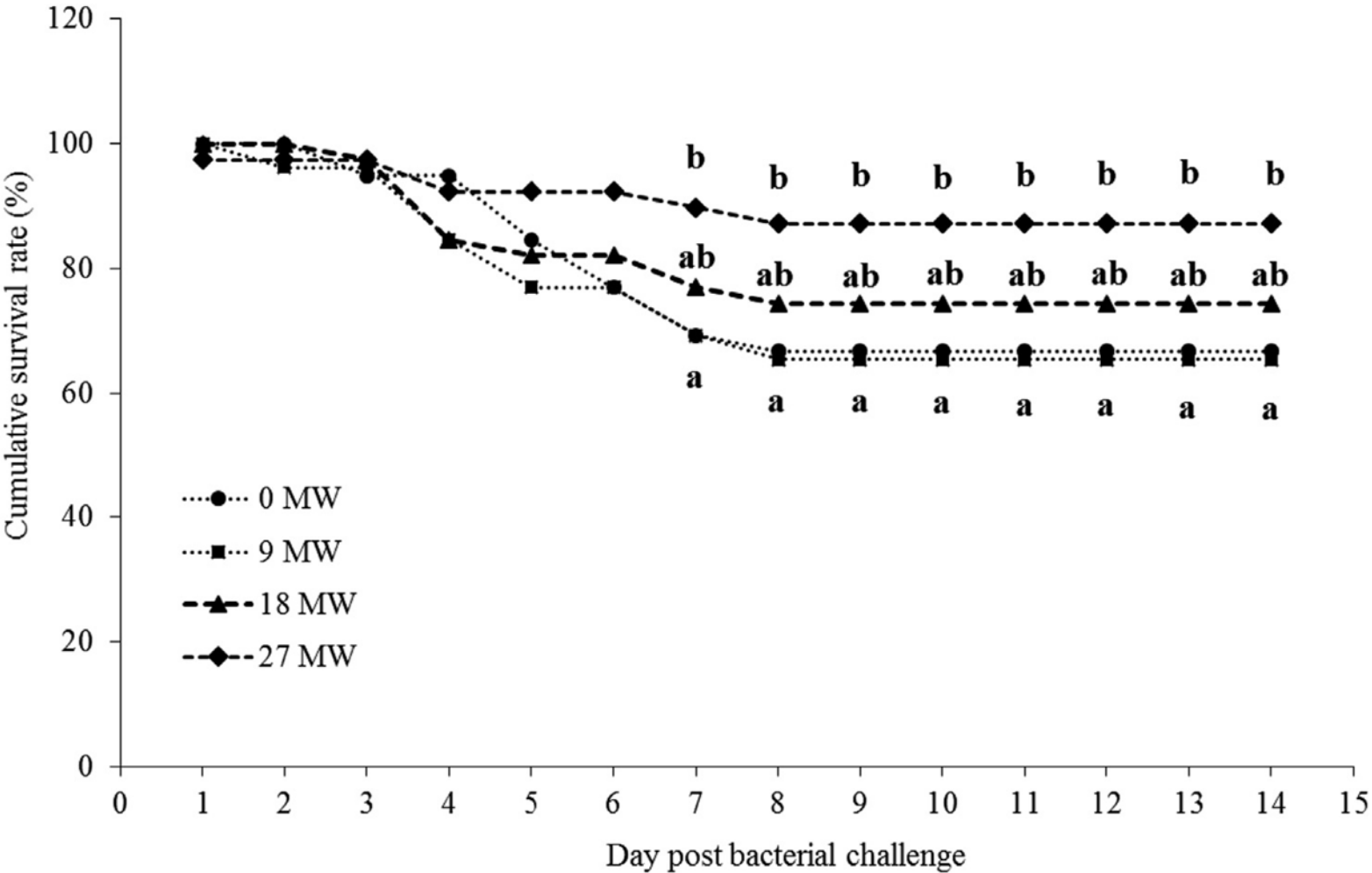
# Beyond protein replacement

# Mealworm replacement: enhanced gene expression of immune system

- ▶ Gene up-regulation
  - ▶ Specific/non-specific
- ▶ Intestinal 'health'
  - ▶ Mucosal histology
  - ▶ Microbiote/diversity



# In vivo bacterial challenge: improved survival





# Insect-based diets: animal welfare

## The case for poultry:

- ▶ Control diet: Commercial mash diets
- ▶ Test diet: Soy-free mash diets + live larvae
  1. Production performance was unchanged
  2. Egg quality was unchanged
  3. Improvement in feather score was observed

(Protix: Schmitt and Paul, pers comm)



# Regulatory approvals: Canada as a leader

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The Globe and Mail – CFIA approves farmed maggots as chicken feed in North American first

POSTED ON JULY 28, [New proteins](#)  
News | 14 Dec 2016 | 11059 views | [2 comments](#)

By Ann Hui The C  
Last updated Thu  
Inspection Agenc  
the first time a fer  
of insect...

## EU agrees on insect protein for aquafeed

IPIFF, the Europea  
sect Production se  
EU Member States

## News Release – Enterra Receives CFIA Approval to Sell Insect Larvae to Aquaculture Industry

POSTED ON FEBRUARY 15, 2017 BY [VICTORIA LEUNG](#)

February 15, 2017 10:00 ET Enterra Receives CFIA Approval to Sell Insect Larvae to Aquaculture Industry LANGLEY, BC--(Marketwired - February 15, 2017) - Enterra Feed Corporation has received approval from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to sell its Whole Dried Black Soldier Fly Larvae as a feed ingredient for salmonids, including farmed salmon, trout...



## Pet food, urban agriculture

- ▶ High-value applications
- ▶ Lower quantities required versus Big Ag applications







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Niche applications: aquarium, reptiles





Protix:  
commercializing in-  
house brand eggs



Insect-based fish feeds: coming to a fish counter chez vous!!

# Thanks to our students, collaborators and partners



Institut national de la recherche scientifique



Fondation David Suzuki



Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières





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# Using insect larvae to upcycle waste organic residues to produce novel animal feed ingredients

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Faculté des sciences de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation  
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