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Aquafeeds

Innovafeed, IRBI launch FrenchFly project to scale insect protein in France

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By Responsible Seafood Advocate

New partnership targets key barriers to insect protein production using black soldier fly technology

IRBI and Innovafeed have launched a new project to advance insect protein production in France, targeting key scientific and technical barriers that continue to limit large-scale development.

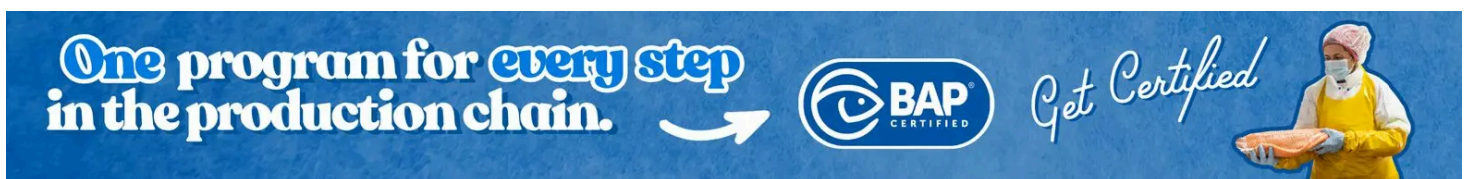
The initiative, known as FrenchFly, brings together academic and industry partners to support the growth of the country's black soldier fly (BSF) sector. It is backed by Bpifrance through the government's "I-Démo" program.

The project comes as France places increasing emphasis on food sovereignty, decarbonization and domestic industrial growth, positioning insect protein as a potential contributor to more sustainable food and feed systems.

"The biology of insects is fascinating: at IRBI, we study how they grow, reproduce, and interact with both their peers and their environment," said Christophe Bressac, professor at the University of Tours.



IRBI and Innovafeed have launched a new project to advance insect protein production in France. Photo by Beatriz Moisset (CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons).



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“Thanks to FrenchFly, the different levels of insect biology, from genome to populations, are being integrated into food systems. The synergy with Innovafeed will provide precise insights to optimize the life cycle of this new farmed species while minimizing its environmental footprint.”

Innovafeed will contribute its industrial expertise, while IRBI will lead research to improve black soldier fly rearing and better understand environmental interactions. The project is also expected to generate open-access data to support wider development of the sector.



France has become innovation nation for insect production

With a thriving insect industry in France, new opportunities are emerging to advance aquaculture feeds and mitigate environmental challenges.



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“This partnership between Innovafeed and IRBI is a major accelerator for the generation of scientific knowledge,” said Mathieu Vanderstraete, director of Innovafeed’s Research Center in Gouzeaucourt. “The synergy between our respective areas of expertise enables us to broaden and deepen our understanding of *Hermetia illucens* biology, while promoting the sharing and valorization of this knowledge for the benefit of the entire insect industry ecosystem.”

The project is funded by the French government as part of the France 2030 investment plan.

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