How to combine insect farming with a biogas process?

Jan Liebetrau, Harald Wedwitschka
Insects as animal feed and food

- Demand for protein rich nutrition is rapidly increasing - driven by world population growth
- Insect protein can play an important part in human and animal nutrition in aquaculture, poultry and pig farming (FAO)
- Insects are traditional fodder animals
- Industrial produced defatted insect protein meal was successfully tested as animal feed
- Water consumption, land demand and required feedstuff quantities for insect farming are generally lower as for intensive animal production of pig, cattle and fish
- Other option: Application in biofuel, biolubricants and biotechnology sector
Insect farming

Which organic fractions are converted by insects?

• Carbohydrates, Proteins, Lipids
• Depending on the feedstuff, size and weight gain of the insects varies between 20-50% fat and 30-45% protein

Does it make sense to use animal feed for insect production?

• Refinement of feedstuff with short durability and high transport costs (high water content or low bulk density)
• Wide ranging marketing opportunities for insect products in higher price segments

✓ However the utilisation of cost effective residue materials increases the sustainability of the production process and supports the consumer acceptance
In Germany insect products are mainly available in the pet food, fishing and terraristic and aquaristic area and as treatment against pest infestation.

Until 2018 the Directorate-General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Prevention of Fraud (DGCCRF) had not authorised the placing of insect products on the market of foodstuff for human consumption (EU regulation 2015/2283).

**Since January 2018 new novel food-regulation in (EU) 2015/2283**

Insects or insect-containing products intended to be marketed as food must undergo health assessment and approval by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

(Each product needs an own approval)

Alternatively, in some cases, traditional foods from a third country may be used if it can be proven that the food has been consumed there for at least 25 years and no safety concerns have occurred.
# Insects as animal feed and food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic animal species</th>
<th>Feed conversion rate (g TS Input/g FM Output)</th>
<th>Life span</th>
<th>Carcass weight</th>
<th>Exploitation</th>
<th>Slaughter animal market price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef cattle</td>
<td>4.5–7.5 (&gt; 6 is typical)</td>
<td>14-24 month</td>
<td>680-750kg</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>3-4€/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig</td>
<td>3.8–4.5</td>
<td>5 month</td>
<td>100kg</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>1.5€/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>1.6–1.9</td>
<td>5-6 weeks</td>
<td>1.2-2.0kg</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>1.7€/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>4.0–6.0 (40 with straw)</td>
<td>6 month</td>
<td>20-25kg</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>4.8€/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish (Aquakultur)</td>
<td>0.75-2 (dry fodder pellets)</td>
<td>6 month</td>
<td>1-3kg</td>
<td>80-90%</td>
<td>7.2€/kg (Salmon Norway)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermetia</td>
<td>2.0–3.2 (Palm kernel meal)</td>
<td>12-16 days</td>
<td>130 -140mg</td>
<td>&gt;90</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Insects as animal feed and food

Insect farming for protein production must be measured against livestock farming and aquaculture.

- Water demand
- Efficiency of energy and land use
- Feed conversion
- GHG emissions
- Utilisation of chemical substances, additives, auxiliary substances, antibiotics and hormones in the production
- Production costs and sales proceeds
In several countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America Insects play already an important role as animal feed and in some regions for human nutrition. Insect farming in industrial scale is still scarce. In North America Insect farming with large production sites by Enterra in Vancouver Canada. In Europe by Hermetia Baruth GmbH, Protix and Ynsect and other companies.

**IPIFF** (International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed) is an EU non-profit organisation which represents the interests of the insect production sector towards EU policy makers, European stakeholders and citizens.

**INSECTA** (International Symposium on Insects as Feed, Food and Non-Food) international expert’s platform on the latest developments and research results on insects organised by Pilot Pflanzenöltechnologie Magdeburg e.V. (PPM) and Leibniz-Institut für Agrartechnik und Bioökonomie e.V. (ATB)
Project short description
Competitive Insect Products (CIP)
Insect framing process steps
Project short description
Competitive Insect Products (CIP)

Insect production:
- Residues → Oviposition (+Water, +Heat, +Light) → Egg production
- Insect breeding

Egg harvest

Substrate:
- Substrate (+Water, +Heat) → Pupae production
- Substrate (+Heat) → Larvae production

Pupae harvest

Larvae production:
- Larvae harvest
- Larvae production (+Water, +Heat)

Residues
Project short description
Competitive Insect Products (CIP)

- Partner: Hermetia Baruth GmbH
- Duration: 10/2017 – 10/2020
- Funding organisation: BMBF
  Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- Aim: Development of a cost-effective value chain for bio-based olefins and complex nutrient media based on insect biomass with full market viability for industrial application
- Project content: development of new application areas for Insect products, further optimization of the insect production process, development of a biorefinery concept
- Content DBFZ: Feedstock screening and testing, insect feeding trials and mass balancing, feasibility studies on integrated production processes onsite of biogas and bioethanol plants
## Project short description

### Competitive Insect Products (CIP)

Insect biorefinery: “Waste free biological conversion of residual organic materials into bio-based olefins and anti-allergenic proteins with the help of insects (black soldier flies)”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Raw materials for insect production</th>
<th>Biological conversion</th>
<th>Insect Products</th>
<th>Insect Production residues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insect feed:</td>
<td>Insects</td>
<td>Pre-products are</td>
<td>Feed remains,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inexpensive and sustainable feedstocks</td>
<td>(Black Soldier fly)</td>
<td>Insect protein and fat</td>
<td>Residues from product processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residual materials and waste streams like</td>
<td>Biotechnological</td>
<td>Product refining</td>
<td>Residue materials from the insect production process can be used as feedstock in biogas plants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(brewery waste, by-products of biofuel production, sugar production and food industry)</td>
<td>conversion of waste materials into valuable insect biomass</td>
<td>Target products: bio-based olefins (applicable as biodiesel precursor, biological lubricants) anti-allergenic proteins (applicable as complex nutrient media)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Project short description
Competitive Insect Products (CIP)

R&D activities within this project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WP</th>
<th>Insect production – raw materials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feedstock screening and material characterisation, suitability assessment, Feedstock handling, storage and conservation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WP</th>
<th>Insect production – process optimisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Optimisation of the insect production technology in terms of process efficiency and economic sustainability (Insect breeding trials, screening of alternative beneficial insects),</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WP</th>
<th>Product Application – Olefins/ Biodiesel and anti-allergenic proteins</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Analytical product characterisation and testing, Downstream processing, Product confectioning, market screening, analytical testing of the suitability of insect fats as a biodiesel precursor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WP</th>
<th>By-Product Utilisation – Add on Biogas plant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concept study “Biogas plant with integrated insect production” (Integrated concept)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Valuable products are biomethane and process heat; the digested feedstock is suitable for land application as fertilizing soil amendments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project short description
Competitive Insect Products (CIP)

Potential feedstuff for technical product application
- Animal manure
- AD digestion plant digestate
- Organic fraction of municipal solid waste
- Biowaste (source separated organics)
- Restaurant waste and market waste
- Slaughter house waste

Feedstuff for product application in the feed and food sector
- Residues from ethanol and sugar production
- Residues from vegetable oil and biodiesel production
- Milling by-products
- Crop silage and feed grain
- Aquatic plants
- Brewery residues
- Residues from food Industry
Process scheme integrated insect production in existing biogas plants

Biogas plant

1. Feedstock → AD Digestion → Digestate processing
2. Electricity Generation → Residues → Electricity → Exhaust heat

Add on insect farming

1. Feedstock → Insect farming → Product processing
2. Protein, Fat, Chitin → Feed waste
Process scheme integrated insect production in existent biogas plants

Biogas plant

Add on insect farming
Process scheme integrated insect production in existent biogas plants

Biogas plant

Feedstock → AD Digestion → Digestate processing → Residues

Electricity Generation → Electricity

Exhaust heat

Add on insect farming

Feedstock → Insect farming → Product processing → Protein, Fat, Chitin

Feed waste
Process scheme integrated insect production in existent biogas plants

Biogas plant

Add on insect farming
Summary - Research areas

- Process optimisation
  - Utilisation of inexpensive raw materials – Testing of feedstuff alternatives
  - Development of efficient integrated production methods – Feasibility study to the integration of the insect production process into biogas and bioethanol plants

- Product optimisation
  - Product testing for application in biofuel, biolubricants and biotechnology sector
  - Testing of the influence of feedstuff and insect species on product quality
Forschungsprojekt
Wettbewerbsfähige
Insektenprodukte (CIP)
Smart Bioenergy – Innovationen für eine nachhaltige Zukunft

Ansprechpartner
Prof. Dr. mont. Michael Nelles
Daniel Mayer
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Daniela Thrän
Dr.-Ing. Jan Liebetrau
Dr.-Ing. Volker Lenz
Dr.-Ing. Franziska Müller-Langer
Dr.rer.nat. Ingo Hartmann

DBFZ Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum gemeinnützige GmbH
Torgauer Straße 116
D-04347 Leipzig
Tel.: +49 (0)341 2434-112
E-Mail: info@dbfz.de
www.dbfz.de