

Farming insects – six-legged livestock in the UK

Insects are likely to be a valuable source of protein for people and livestock in the future. There is rapidly growing interest in farming insects in the UK and around the world. Over 90 Researchers, farmers, investors and entrepreneurs will be meeting in London on Tuesday 4 April to discuss the development of insect farming as part of supply chains in the UK.

Experts will have wide-ranging discussions about the nutritional quality of insects, their environmental impact as farmed animals and the psychology of marketing insect products. The meeting will also be an opportunity for debate about the practical and legal aspects of insect farming.

“We face a growing world population with 9 billion people expected by 2050 and 11 billion by the end of this century. With global agriculture stretched to its limits, new protein sources are being explored including the consumption of insects. The only way to provide a large and sustainable source of insects is to farm them and we will be asking if this can be achieved in the UK” - Peter Smithers, Honorary Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society and meeting co-organiser.

“This meeting will look to answer important questions about insect farming in this country. Are there waste streams available that could be used as food for insects? Can production be scaled up to meet future demand and offer an affordable product? What new legislation is required to offer proper safeguards to consumers and how will Brexit affect this emerging industry? We will evaluate the prospect of insect farming in the UK and generate a plan for the future of this exciting industry.”

The meeting has been jointly organised by Woven Network, The Royal Entomological Society, British Ecological Society and ADAS to bring together expertise and organisations that see a bright future for six-legged livestock.

Nick Rosseau, Managing Director at Woven commented that “since Woven started two years ago we have seen massive growth in interest in the role of insect protein in the food chain. The challenges include setting clear standards to reassure consumers and farming innovation to drive down the cost of insect material. This event will continue to develop an insect farming community and an exciting new element within UK agriculture.”

For further information or to arrange interviews please contact:

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For a press pass for the event at Charles Darwin House, London WC1N 2JU please contact:

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Woven is the UK network for insects as food and feed, connecting entrepreneurs, researchers and others working in the role of insects in the human food chain in the UK, contributing to securing sustainable, alternative sources of protein, globally. The network has 50 members and a mailing list of over 400 individuals. <https://woven-network.co.uk/>

The Royal Entomological Society is an international academic society that aims to improve entomology, the study of insects, and increase the communication of insect science to all audiences. www.royensoc.co.uk

The British Ecological Society aims to generate, communicate and promote ecological knowledge and solutions. www.britishecologicalsociety.org

ADAS is the UK's largest independent provider of agricultural and environmental consultancy, rural development services and policy advice. www.adas.uk