

## FACTSHEET – VENIK

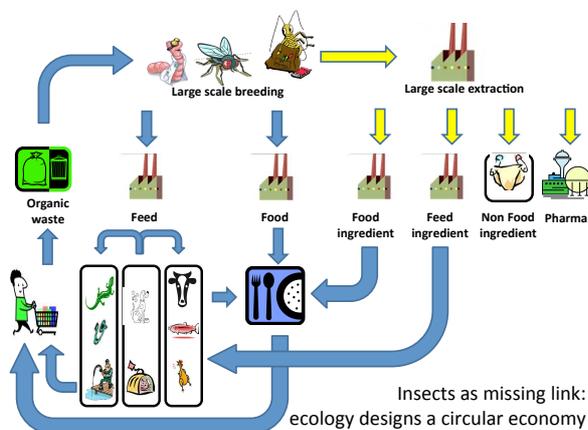
### Venik

Verenigde Nederlandse Insectenkwekers (Venik) is the Dutch Association of Insect Producers. This association promotes the interests of the Dutch insect producers towards a sustainable, officially accepted and economic viable production system to market edible insects as feed and food.

#### Strategic focus: Integrate insects as a missing link in Circular Economy

Venik's vision and strategic focus within a long-term view is to integrate insects in the food and feed supply chain, insects as a missing link in a circular economy. In stating this, Venik is aware that radical innovations are necessary. New products to new markets ask for innovative and keen approaches towards legal, financial (investors), consumer acceptance and technology development.

Consequently, Venik designed an innovation strategy towards gradual and sustainable growth prioritising issues to build the fundamentals of this new sector.



Since its foundation in 2008, Venik has built a strong network of businesses. Governmental and non-governmental organisations (regional, national, EU and global at FAO), political, financial sources and knowledge institutions are represented.

### Topics

Venik supports activities and that lead to a sustainable and economic viable sector. In our view the on short and mid-long term topics to

develop fundamentals for this new insect sector are:

1. Quality and food- & food & feed safety
  - a. Food – food & feed safety procedure in HACCP – GMP+
  - b. Setting quality standards for insects
2. Market development in a regulated environment
  - a. Sustainable and gradual market growth versus technical up-scaling of insect farms
  - b. Product development and testing
3. Knowledge agenda: building knowledge on a fundamental and applied level
4. Provide effective information and education
5. Animal welfare and working environment
  - a. The limitations of insect rearing
  - b. Animal diseases and contaminants in insect rearing
  - c. Working conditions and minimize labour risks (eg. allergies)
6. Legislation and acceptance
  - a. Position of insects in general at the Food Authority
  - b. Insects as a novel food (whole, grinded, de-fatted or extracted ingredients);
  - c. Insects as feed
  - d. Insects grown on organic waste (e.g. industrial by-products from food industry, former foodstuffs)

#### Quality and food safety first

The Association of Dutch Insect producers (Venik) promotes the production of insects for food & feed according to the standards established in the General Food Law. These criteria are a measure for food safety and therefore quality of the insects.

To produce insects for animal feed and human consumption (food), the members of Venik have to farm their insects according to the regulations and legislation of the European Commission intended for production animals. The insects



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traded for human consumption are grown under controlled conditions with pure vegetable and qualified GMP + feed, free of antibiotics and growth promoters.

To ensure the quality of the insects Venik has a 'standard' quality manual prepared, which can be tailored for the individual company. This manual provides transparent processes to ensure safe production.

These standards are the benchmark for independent external audits and in its current form it forms the basis for inspections for the inspections by the national authorities. Venik will launch its own quality label in late 2014.

### Nutrient Cycle – closing the nutrient loop

In the cycle of nature insects are a link in the chain, upgrading residues into high quality nutrients. In this natural cycle no valuable nutrients will be wasted. Insect production for both feed and food is a natural, but forgotten solution to global food security.

To bring insects back in the current food production system, insect producers are obliged to fit into the current legislative framework. Within this framework, insects as an ingredient for feed and food cannot simply be traded on the market. Not all waste streams, for example former foodstuffs can simply be fed to so called 'farmed animals', such as insects.

Many questions will have to be answered before insects in a safe and profitable manner scale can be accepted for both food and feed. Regulations and legislation is the main obstacle to:

- Insects to rear at different residues on a large scale
- To process insects
- To market insects.

Insects have always been seen as a 'pest' or 'contaminant'. Acceptance of insects as bulk raw material in feed and food requires adjustments or guidelines under the following legislation:

- Recognition insects as 'production animals'
- Production of insects on waste streams

- Animal welfare
- Regulation on the storage, handling and slaughtering
- Authorization for feed applications
- Novel Food Regulation

For this, the Dutch government and Venik signed a Green Deal B92 to take joint effort in lobbying and designing an adequate framework for market approval for the production of insects on a large scale in food and feed application.

### Venik members



### Venik partnerships



### Information

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