

Bangkok, 23rd of June- “The Insect Industry in ASEAN: Insights with AFFIA”



8.30am, Friday, Faculty of Agro-Industry, Kasetsart University:

Fuelled with a motivation for innovative and sustainable food and feed sources, the **ASEAN Food and Feed Insect Association-AFFIA**, gathered over 60 participants eager to know more about the growing insect industry in South-East Asia and keen on tasting new recipes from the *Insect in the Backyard* soon opening Bangkokian Restaurant.

A yummy source of protein for your animals!

From organic waste valorisation to the production of high-value feed compound from the worldwide known Black Soldier fly larvae, through the presentation of the feed industries expectations and challenges, the first sessions addressed the latest news regarding insect as Feed.

Contributors

Bart Verstappen (EAWAG Sandec- FORWARD project, Indonesia), Anne Deguerry (Entofood, Malaysia), Dr Jarin Sawanboonchun (Gold Coin Specialties Thailand Co. Ltd.), Dr Attawit Kovitvadi (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Kasetsart University, Thailand) were the speakers of this highly informative session.

And an even tastier food for you!

There was however no food waste left following the tasting sessions during which -Cricket nachos -Cricket Pasta with wild Pesto and Dried Tomato - Silkworm Tiramisu were served to the participants. It perfectly introduced a second part on the insect as food industry, from Product Development to Market Analysis through Farming Technologies. Regulatory frameworks for both domestic and international markets were also presented, with the last evolutions to support the safe and sustainable insect as food industry in South-East Asia.



Contributors

Dr Pisit Dhamvithee (Faculty of Agro-Industry, Kasetsart University, Thailand), Massimo Reverberi (Bugsolutely, Thailand), Korwadee Punkleng (National Bureau of Agricultural Commodities and Food Standards, Thailand), Jiraratana Thesasilpa (Food and Drug Administration, Thailand) delivered the last updated information to the audience.

Support and Collaboration for the insect industry to grow.

Dr Wasaporn Chanput (Faculty of Agro-Industry, **Kasetsart University**, Thailand) highlighted the potential for Kasetsart University to become a research and innovation hub for insect products. Dr Sopark Sonwai (Thai Research Fund Coordinator, Thailand) further supported the idea through the presentation of available financial support for domestically established companies willing to work hand-in-hand with researchers.

A successful event and an increased need of **AFFIA**

The event highlighted the important facilitating role for AFFIA: networking the insect industry stakeholders through an educative platform and raising awareness with industry players and consumers. AFFIA had the chance to welcome middle to high scale food and feed producers during this event, as well as international researchers, showing the increasing interest for bugs.

Counting so far 19 members from 9 South-East Asian countries, AFFIA celebrated its 10 months Birthday on the 23rd of June. The baby is growing well, and there is no doubt that this is due to his regular consumption of insects!

By *Nathan Preteseille*. AFFIA Coordinator, AETS.