



Swiss Programme for Research
on Global Issues for Development



Insects as Feed in West Africa
Using insects to improve livestock production and food security

Sustainable Use of Insects to Improve Livestock Production and Food Security in Smallholder Farms in West Africa (IFWA)

Fishmeal and crops such as soya are key protein sources for animal feeds, but they are not ecologically and economically sustainable. In West Africa, poultry producers suffer from the increasing cost of feed (representing about 70% of the total production costs), in particular protein sources. Poultry farming is also practised by almost all smallholder farmers. Their scavenging poultry is rarely provided with the necessary quantity of protein feeds, which affects meat production and eggs, and reduces family income. Similarly, small-scale fish farmers often feed their fish on natural feed (plankton), green leaves and agricultural by-products. The nutritional value of these feeds is low, resulting in poor yields and less income for the household. A solution to develop sustainable household poultry farming and aquaculture systems is to use untapped local, easily available and cheap protein sources. Insects, which are a natural food source of poultry and fish, are one such source, and FAO strongly recommends the use of insects for human food and animal feed as a tool to alleviate poverty.

The IFWA project aims to develop appropriate methods for insect production based on waste material. It ensures that these innovations are safe and socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. At a later stage, we will validate and implement these innovations with farmers, and disseminate the project's findings to stakeholders, the general public, the scientific community and policy makers.

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IFWA Website: <https://www.insectsasfeed.org/>



Video IFWA: Insect as Feed in West Africa