MAKING AUTOMATED INSECT FARMS

Pre-pilot of the CoRoSect project succesfully tested

The agrifood industry is one of the latest to undergo a digital revolution, as well as its subfield - insect farming. The CoRoSect project has used novel technologies to their full extent, swarming towards the future with robotics and exploring the full potential of insect farming. The project has successfully completed pre-pilot activities in Spain at Entomotech, a leading R&D company focused on industrial application of arthropods.

"Our pre-pilot activities gave us a firsthand experience of insect farming, which motivated us to improve technology in the coming large scale pilots. We tested our first-gen sensors and robots for insect farming, gaining crucial experience for tailored solutions. Thanks to this, CoRoSect will provide a solution where robots, sensors, and software work together, and the pre-pilot allowed us to test the integration of components under real-world conditions."

Dr. Rico Möckel, Maastricht University

The pre-pilot activities were performed in collaboration with Entomo AgroIndustrial and they helped in understanding the scale of different parameters in the insect farming environment, provided data on the usability and performance of chosen sensing and software solutions, as well as wireless communication. This was a significant leap towards the CoRoSect goal of automating insect farming and improving its efficiency and sustainability. The next step of the project are pilot activities that will be organized in Italy, United Kingdom, Norway, Bulgaria.

CoRoSect is on a mission to improve the efficiency of insect rearing through the use of robotic automation. By automating tedious and physically demanding tasks, the goal of the project is to reduce the amount of manual work required, as well as the need for human supervision. Automatic robot-based operations will be focused on research into the biological, technical, and economic requirements of insect rearing, as well as the optimization of all processes involved. This will allow farmers to create a more efficient and effective system for producing insects.

The CoRoSect project gathering 19 partners across Europe is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme and all the information is available on the project's <u>website</u>, as well as <u>Facebook</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Youtube</u>.

