



Why the project

Last August 2021 the EU Commission made public the amending [Annex IV to Regulation \(EC\) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the prohibition to feed non-ruminant farmed animals, other than fur animals, with protein derived from animals](#), which now authorizes insect proteins in poultry and pig feed.

Prior to the entry into force of this piece of legislation, in September 2021, the use of insect proteins was not allowed in the European Union Member States – with the exception of the aquaculture and pet food market, feed for fur animals and other nonfood producing animals (as defined in article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009).

This is important news for SUSTAvianFEED project, which confirms the relevance of the goals put in place and the importance of pilot projects to make progress in the animal feeding system.

The development of a methodology for the development of sustainable feeding programs for the aviculture sector and the proposal of preliminary diets to be used in pilot project activities are the two main objectives.

SUSTAvianFEED aims to demonstrate innovative poultry farming systems by the inclusion of sustainable animal feeding. A sustainable nutritional formula for poultry farming in which insects will play a key role will be developed. Thus, the sustainability of poultry feeding will be the mainstream of the development of an innovative and sustainable livestock farming system. The sustainable nutritional formula for poultry farming will be developed through the use of insects and the substitution of environmentally damaging protein sources (as soybean or fishmeal) by regional agri-food sector by-products in order to follow circular economy principles.

SUSTAvianFEED approach will also promote local economy, socioeconomic growth and local resilience of Mediterranean areas. The selection of local and adapted species, particularly important for small-scale farming, associated with poor and marginalized sectors, will provide subsidiary incomes as well as nutritious meat and eggs, promoting the commercialization of local products and maximizing the incomes.

Finally, SUSTAvianFEED will contribute to the PRIMA SRIA objective of Implementation of innovation in the Agrofood chain, promoting higher quality, sustainability and competitiveness with particular reference to small holders by demonstrating an innovative and sustainable poultry farming system, specially focused in smallholder's role. The Farm to Fork Strategy (under development in the framework of the European Green Deal) will set out the regulatory and non-regulatory measures needed to create more efficient, climate-smart systems that provide healthy food, while securing a decent living for EU farmers. Also, Circular Economy Action Plan, the 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy, the Forestry Strategy, the EU Climate ambition and the Zero Pollution Strategy, highlight the great impact of the food sector on the environment. All these main topics will be covered and explored in SUSTAvianFEED project. Furthermore, the project approach contributes to several SDGs, in which the cost reduction in quality products is a key

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aspect, especially to SDG2, Zero Hunger, SDG12, Responsible Production and Consumption, SDG13, Climate Action, and the ones related with socioeconomic aspects, SDG5, SDG8 andSDG10, and SDG17, about the importance of the partnership to achieve the goals.

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