

Protix deepens R&D on genetics through partnership

FOR EXTERNAL USE

Protix and Hendrix Genetics join forces to develop world leading insect breeding program

Protix, leader in insect protein production, and Hendrix Genetics, global multi-species animal genetics company, announce their collaboration in the development of an insect breeding program. The program aims to further improve the potential of insects as an efficient protein converter from feedstock to ingredient.

Founded on the achievements made in the production of black soldier flies, the new collaboration will further deepen the potential of insects as a source of high-quality nutrition. This applies to both the potential insects have as protein extractors from food leftovers, and their ability to be a quality source of nutrition for animal feed and human food.

“At Protix we have dedicated ourselves to the development of the necessary technologies to produce insects at scale in a safe and hygienic way. It is time for the next step and partner in breeding to realize our full potential”, according to Bas Jurgens, COO of Protix.

Johan van Arendonk, Chief Technology & Innovation Officer at Hendrix Genetics acknowledges the great potential of the collaboration and stated: “Partnering with Protix offers a unique opportunity to jointly create world leading program in insect breeding. Hendrix Genetics is truly multi-species focused and we experience every day that sharing knowledge across species speeds up innovation. Working on insects adds a new dimension and opportunity to create added value.”

Collaboration is well underway and Protix and Hendrix Genetics together expect results that can offer a strong benefit to all parties in the insect protein business. Both parties believe that it adds to the professional capacity of Protix, to further grow and to accelerate the industry at large.

The insect industry is growing quickly, especially after the EU allowed insect protein to be used as an aquaculture feed ingredient. Over the last decade this novel industry of insect based ingredients for feed and food has developed greatly and experienced an increased level of professionalization.



Food in Balance with Nature

Protix is the leading insect ingredient company with a broad range of ingredients made from the Black Soldier Fly, Mealworm, Cricket and Locust. Protix has a strong track record of innovation and commercial market introductions and is dedicated to delivering sustainable, circular and natural proteins and ingredients from insects. Through high-tech control systems, artificial intelligence, genetic improvement programs and robotics, Protix is able to produce consistently at the right quality. Protix has been awarded by the World Economic Forum with the Technology Pioneer award and is an active member of the global council on Food Security and Agriculture.

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Better Breeding today, Better Life tomorrow

Hendrix Genetics serves the animal protein value chain with genetic solutions in layers, turkeys, traditional poultry, swine and multiple aquatic species. Founded in 2005, the company has evolved through natural growth and the acquisition and integration of leading genetics companies. Its aim is to create value, while focusing on collaboration, innovation and sustainability. Hendrix Genetics is dedicated to generating solutions for the animal protein sector that meet the challenges of food production. Backed by a strong portfolio of leading brands, Hendrix Genetics provides expertise and resources to producers worldwide with operations and joint ventures in 25 countries, and more than 3,000 employees. With respect and care for people, animals and the environment, Hendrix Genetics is committed to delivering better breeding today, for a brighter life tomorrow.

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Q&A

Question	Answer
What type of insects will be part of the program?	We focus on the Black Soldier Fly (<i>Hermetia Illucens</i>) as this has the largest production base at this point. From there we will move into other species. Protix is a multispecies insect production company and Hendrix Genetics has experience in genetic selection programs for a broad range of species.
Why is Hendrix interested in insects?	Hendrix Genetics is an expert in multi-species animal genetics. We successfully apply genetic and genomic technologies and tools cross species and we believe insects are a natural addition to our scope of already nine species.
What kind of improvements can be conceived that result from such a collaboration?	Since the insect production industry is relatively young, there is little to no data regarding what insects can achieve over time when focusing on specific traits and characteristics. One could compare it to what was known about milk production back in 1950. In dairy, characteristics have been amplified over time, resulting in the very efficient production numbers we see today. We expect similar improvements in insects. In the science of selection and genetics, a lot has been based on early research on insects. They have stood model for many of the current principles and science. We believe that with the biological and operational knowledge of Protix and the genetics and breeding knowledge of Hendrix Genetics very strong improvements can, and will be made.
What type of deal has been made?	We can't disclose details of the deal, but we are very proud of this collaboration on both sides. We also have concluded that this deal is based on more than just business principles. It's a collaboration based on values, culture and vision for the future.