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TICINSECT GETS FOSSIL-FREE RECOGNITION FROM WWF SWITZERLAND

TicInsect, a Swiss start-up company active in the circular economy thanks to the valorisation of **organic waste** by means of the larvae of the Black Soldier Fly (*Hermetia Illucens*), will receive on May 21, 2021, the precious **Fossil-Free recognition by WWF Switzerland**, Swiss Italian section. The ceremony will take place in the prestigious setting of the **USI Startup Centre**, at the new Campus East Usi-Supsi, where the start-up has the honour of being incubated.

The Fossil-Free award certifies TicInsect's commitment to being **an active part of an economy based on renewable resources**, distancing itself from the use of fossil fuels and **contributing to achieving zero emissions by 2040**, in order to avert a global climate crisis.

The importance of TicInsect's work can be understood by looking at the context in which humanity is moving: by 2050 the human population will reach 10 billion and the demand for meat and fish - sources of noble proteins - will increase dramatically. At present, aquaculture is based on overexploitation of the world's fish stocks while cattle and poultry farming is based on soya cultivation, often deforesting areas of immense wealth in terms of the biodiversity of fauna and flora.

If the prospects for the future are not rosy, those of the present are no more encouraging: **2.8 million tonnes of food waste are produced in Switzerland every year**, 39% coming from households and 37% from the food industry. This food waste generates unnecessary CO₂ emissions, water and soil consumption, and organic waste that needs to be disposed of properly.

TicInsect was created as an answer to this **productive short-circuit** that **Elisa Filippi** decided to try to solve: using the larvae of the **Black Soldier Fly** to dispose of organic waste and **obtain by-products with high added value** such as **noble proteins, fertiliser for agriculture and oil for biofuels**.

The first is used for **animal husbandry and pet food** - avoiding plundering the seas and overexploiting arable land, the second for agriculture and the third as an alternative fuel to fossil fuels. The whole process **requires minimal resources in terms of water, soil and CO₂ emissions** and is crucial to achieving the sustainable development goals of the **UN's 2030 Agenda**, which the **Swiss Confederation joined in 2019**.



A system as constantly in debt as ours, which uses more resources each year than it can regenerate, needs to be reformed to be sustainable, i.e. **"to ensure that it meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"**, according to the official definition of sustainable development in the Brundtland Report.

Ticinsect, a start-up company that proposes a solution to today's global problems based on what **nature has been doing for millions of years**: feeding animals with small concentrates of energy and noble proteins such as insects.

Looking back to look forward, fossil-free of course!

For more information:

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