

Eco-innovation and the edible insect value chain: a systematic review

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Abstract

The use of edible insects as a total or partial ingredient for animal feed and human food has aroused the interest of researchers from different areas. This new value chain proposes to be an innovative sustainable alternative to existing protein chains.

The aim of this article is to investigate and show research the consumption of insects for human food and animal feed in an eco-innovation scenario.

This research uses a systematic review, in which the articles found were used to understand the value chain of edible insects for human food and animal feed, as well as their insertion in the eco-innovative scenario.

Results show that the value chain referring to the consumption of insects for human food and animal feed can be considered an eco-innovation, considering edible insects as an alternative system of production and consumption that is more environmentally benign than existing systems. Research reveals that edible insects are sustainable protein sources, compared to other alternative sources such as chicken, pork, and beef, as they have greater production and protein efficiencies in terms of resources.

Keywords: Eco-innovation, Edible Insects, Sustainability, Human Food, Animal Feed

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