

5+2 potential business cases for Black Soldier Fly Farming



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Black Soldier Fly (*Hermetia Illucens*) is considered to be perhaps the most potential insect for various sustainable use cases varying from feed to food and waste management to biomedicine.

Here is a collection of 5 of the most potential BSF farming business cases right now, with 2 more to consider for the future.





1. Animal feed

Black Soldier Fly larvae are a great, natural and sustainable source of protein for farm animals, such as chicken / poultry and pigs. It is also a great way to save in feed costs, replacing the not-so-sustainable soy as a protein source.

When the larvae are produced locally, the larvae can be fed to the farm animals live, no need for post-processing, drying, freezing, etc. And if you're able to even get paid for managing someone else's biowaste or at least get it for free, it is a nice, globally available income opportunity!

2. Waste management / reduction

Biowaste is a global issue and growing fast. In some countries biowaste has lots of potential use cases (such as biogas), in some countries there is no one interested in managing it.

Some may get paid nicely to take it away, but even if you don't get paid, you get BSF larvae substrate for free!
Nice!

And if you have farm animals or grow vegetables, fruits, etc. food or food ingredients, you might have a biowaste problem of your own, which you could turn into an income opportunity.





3. Aquafeed

BSF larvae are not just a good protein source for farm animals, but for fish and shrimps, too!

Over-fishing of seas is a global issue and the need to turn from fishmeal to something more sustainable puts a lot of pressure to fishmeal prices. Replacing fishmeal with BSF meal is a major, fast-growing opportunity for sea, lake and pond farmed fish, as well as for shrimp farming.

And fishguts are a great substrate for the larvae!
Reducing waste management costs by feeding larvae with fishguts and then larvae to fish? A solid Win-Win!

4. Frass as a fertilizer and for land remediation

Frass is the side product of BSF farming, but for some, the bigger business opportunity! After all, if the substrate fed to the larvae has been of good quality, so will be the frass.

Frass typically contains several nutrients that can be beneficial for soil and plant growth; Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Sulphur, and Micro-nutrients.

Selling frass in small packages in a local supermarket may result in big bucks, selling it in bigger quantities for agriculture is easier, but not as profitable. Or just use frass in your own fields and make great savings!





5. Petfood

A number of big petfood manufacturers all over the world have started testing and even producing small batches of petfood containing insect protein. Here, just as well as in animal feed, insect protein is replacing soy or fish as the protein source.

Problem - the need for big quantities of larvae at once. Thus, the petfood market is currently serviced by the big factory-size insect farmers, but there is definitely a market worth exploring also for smaller farms. Especially, if you cater a niche petfood need, such as pet lizards, petfish, etc.

The +1: Human consumption

While Black Soldier Fly larvae are primarily used as animal feed, they can also be consumed by humans, a market still in the making.

In some countries and cultures, insects are consumed more eagerly and are a natural food or snack, while in others the barrier is far too great for insects ever to become a major food ingredient.

A market worth exploring? Maybe, you'll have to do a bit of market research and explore consuming behaviors in your target market. Fingers crossed!





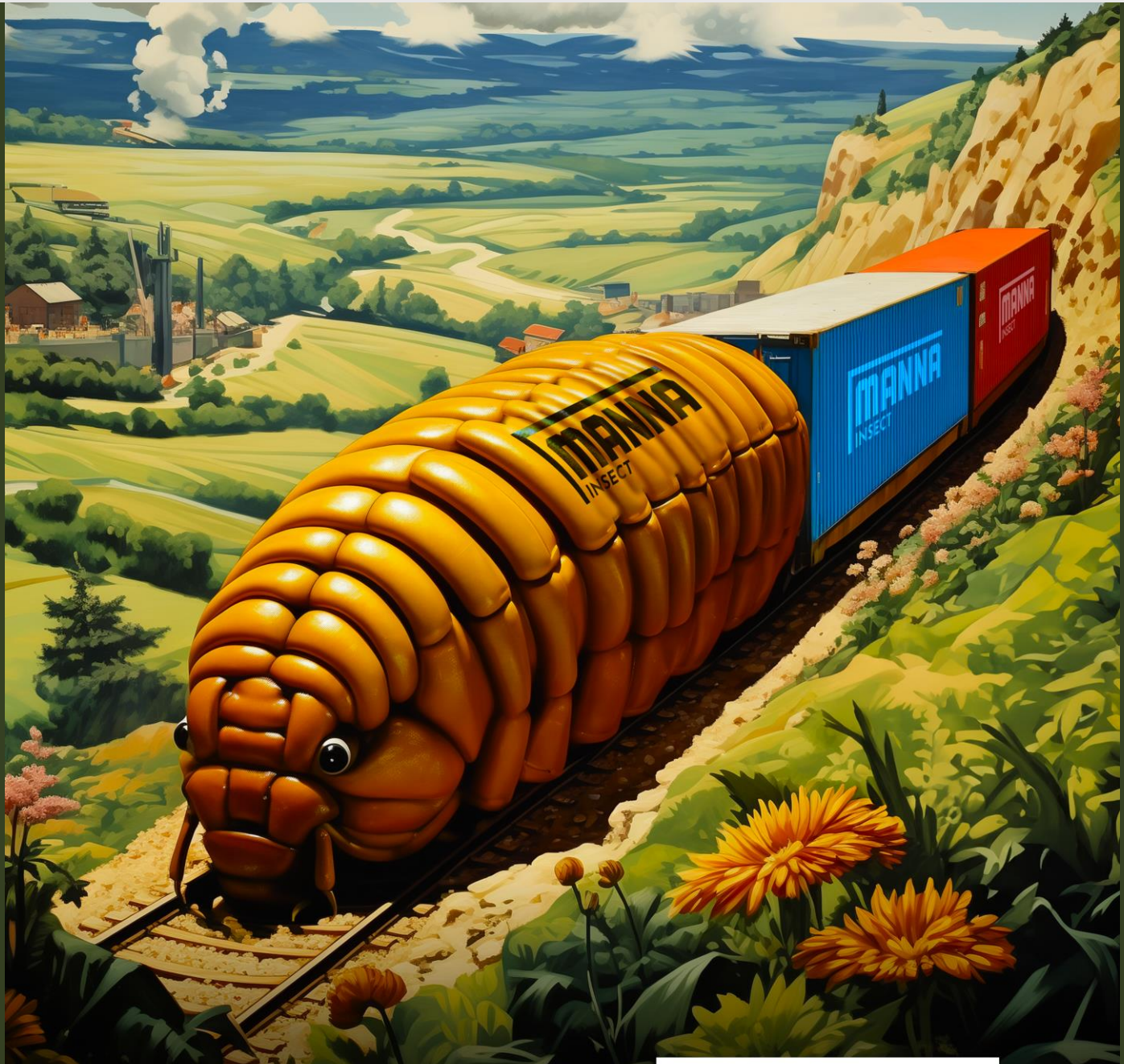
The +2: Biomedicine / Biomedical use cases

BSF exoskeletons are considered an interesting opportunity to harvest chitin (chitosan), which is a very promising ingredient used in biomedical applications.

Chitin could be used in e.g. wound dressings, as it possesses hemostatic properties and can accelerate wound healing, or in tissue engineering for scaffolding materials, drug delivery systems, and as coatings for medical implants.

Also, BSF larvae produces antimicrobial peptides, that could be used to develop new antibiotics.

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