

ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN SOURCES IN BROILER FEED: HEALTHY AND EFFICIENT ANIMALS WITH A LOW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Why?

Modern animal husbandry faces a diversity of challenges concerning a sustainable production of food products of animal origin for human consumption, the maintenance of animal health and the impact on our environment. Usage of American soy products in animal feed is associated with a high impact on the environment as a result of deforestation and transport to Europe. Plural cooperations search for alternative protein sources, but: how do these resources influence intestinal processes, like foregut digestion and microbial hindgut fermentation? And are alternative protein sources actually a environmental friendly alternative for soy products? Partners from professional education (University of Applied Sciences), research and companies in the feed sector cooperate in finding an answer to these question by performing praxis based research? Do you join us?

What?

In a long term research project HAS University of Applied Sciences, lectorate *Healthy Farming*, in cooperation with involved project partners, offers a platform in which 'new' protein sources can be screened on nutritional value and the environmental impact of new resources can be analyzed in Life Cycle Assessments. Furthermore different modern *in vitro* techniques will be combined to get insight in the effects of new protein sources on intestinal processes, amongst which microbial activity of intestinal microbiota. Concludingly *in vivo* research will define the effects of the selected protein sources on animal health and performance. We are in search for high potential protein sources to include in this research project. Suppliers of resources and other parties involved in the animal feed sector are invited to contact us.

How?

It is expected that recruited subsidies, combined with cofounding of the involved project partners, covers ca. 75% of the total project costs. For the last part we are in search for enthusiastic partners that want to cooperate (*in cash and in kind*) in this project. Possibly more subsidy funds will be recruited in cooperation with interested parties. We invite interested parties to contact us as soon as possible. We are most willingly to discuss this project and your questions further with you.

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