



Name: Ittinsect

Country: Italy

Incorporated: 2018

Fund: Katapult Seed Fund 1

Problem:

While fish farming is making important steps to becoming a more sustainable industry, aquaculture feeds still contain a large quantity of marine-sourced ingredients. This causes two problems:

At one level it generates an environmental problem as a quarter of all marine-sourced fish is used as a feed ingredient, causing pressure to the already overfished marine areas. At another level it creates an economic obstacle with fish feed representing 50% of a fish farmer's costs. Over the last 20 years, fishmeal shortages have caused the product to rise in price by four-fold.

Solution:

Ittinsect is a biotech startup that has developed a sustainable alternative to aquaculture feed. Ittinsect produces high performance feeds through the microbiological treatment of novel raw ingredients including insects, microalgae and agricultural by-products, in line with circular economy principles. With Ittinsect, there is no longer a need to catch fish from the marine environment as nutrition for farmed fish.

Impact:

"In the past year of development we have succeeded in removing 80% of fishmeal from fish feeds by using insects and agricultural by-products. With our 2023 objective of producing 1,500 tons of feed, we will avoid fishing 45 million sardines (or similar fish), while upcycling 1,500 tons of by-products. Additionally, the overall growth performance of farmed fish will increase by up to 15%, as demonstrated in our scientific papers."



Alessandro Romano
CEO, Ittinsect

