



Sources	Better Origin		
Date	February 2021		
Potential scale of impact	Certainty of outcome	Impact horizon	
★★★★☆	★★☆☆	H1	H2 H3

Cambridge-based business [Better Origin](#) is one of the world’s first insect mini-farms that converts local food waste into high-quality animal feed in the form of insect larvae. The upcycling of nutrients mimics nature’s processes and is a step closer to a more circular economy.

The animal agriculture industry has traditionally been reliant on unsustainable animal feeds such as soy, which is the leading contributor to deforestation around the world and travels for thousands of miles, generating high amounts of carbon emissions. It does not stop there – it is estimated that 33% of arable land on the planet is used to produce livestock feed. Insect feed is an emerging alternative which offers a sustainable and natural feed solution for farmed animals, such as chickens and fish. The benefits of feeding insects to animals also include increased productivity, better health, and higher welfare.

The technology is unique among the insect farming industry, with most incumbents adopting a centralised production model that is capital-intensive and highly complex to operate. Better Origin’s founder and CEO, Fotis Fotiadis, argues that the modular, distributed approach will accelerate adoption and remove barriers to entry for millions of farmers around the world: “Our cost-effective technology democratises insect farming and enables today’s farmer to be a part of tomorrow’s solution. If pandemic has taught us anything, it’s the importance of local supply chains. Decentralised solutions are now more relevant than ever. We are fixing the food system by bringing it back to its origins. We focus on a local supply chain. Our goal is to help build a food system that is circular and resilient in times of change.

“We can have insects all around the world, addressing food waste locally. They will improve the lives of animals and make the future of food more sustainable. Our technology is on the path to becoming the mark of best practice within the food industry. We are working with farmers, retailers and food producers to roll out this solution, with the aim to help secure the future of food.”

**FIXING THE CHAIN**  
 Insect mini-farms convert local food waste into high-quality animal feed