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**Concept note: Addressing challenges in farmed insect protein production**

**Project aims**

1. Identify and prioritise research proposals and ideas that reflect the most urgent needs of the sector and the capabilities and resources within the domestic research community by the end of 2024.
2. Foster collaboration between academic experts, industry stakeholders, and regulatory bodies to develop solutions to food safety challenges.

**Project outputs**

1. A methodology for stimulating and prioritising research projects in the farmed insect protein domain that could be replicated in the future.
2. An expert panel consisting of experts from academia and industry who can ensure that submitted Expressions of Interest (EoIs) are not only researchable but also viable and scalable.
3. A prioritised pipeline of at least 10 research project proposals focused on addressing key challenges in the insect protein industry.
4. New relationships between industry stakeholders, researchers, and policymakers with the potential to lead to collaboration.

**Project outcome**

We hope that this project will lead to a pipeline of highly industry-relevant research and innovation projects being taken forward that make a real difference to the sector, along with a new, deeper set of collaborative relationships.

**Implementation stage:**

1. Collate submitted EoIs and blind them for review purpose (The process of blinding includes removing identifiable details of the applicants and assigning codes to the blinded EoIs before review and grading).
2. Review submitted EoIs based on **strategic importance**, **potential impact**, and **readiness** using the review template:

* **Phase 1:** Industry experts conduct first phase review using the set criteria to determine general suitability of the EoIs and recommend for second phase review.
* **Phase 2:** Academic experts conduct second phase review by checking for technicality of the EoIs using the review template to determine the best EoIs.

1. Notify applicants of their application status and provide successful applicants with any additional instructions or requirements re: Nest 1.0

**Future stages:**

1. Workshop to discuss research funding opportunities.
2. Review outcomes of the workshop and prepare a final project report.