

Poultry meat quality: could live larvae modify it?

Rune Rødbotten, (NOFIMA, Norway)



Final Symposium
Rome, 27th of October 2023



Thaw loss

- Juiciness is a key parameter for eating satisfaction
- Thaw and dripp loss decreases juiciness

		fillet weight	thaw loss	
		g	%	
1 st set (2022)	control male	196 +/- 23 ^A	8.2 +/- 2 ^A	
	larvae male	194 +/- 22 ^A	8.1 +/- 2.1 ^A	
	control female	151 +/- 17 ^B	8.7 +/- 2.2 ^A	
	larvae female	149 +/- 17 ^B	8.9 +/- 1.8 ^A	
		Time of slaughter	fillet weight	thaw loss
			g	%
2 nd set (2023)	CONTROL	1	115 +/- 6 ^A	3.4 +/- 1.4 ^A
	LIVE LARVAE	1	115 +/- 10 ^A	3.6 +/- 1.3 ^A
	CONTROL	2	113 +/- 13 ^A	3.1 +/- 1.4 ^A
	LIVE LARVAE	2	115 +/- 14 ^A	2.6 +/- 0.6 ^A

- Less thaw loss in 2023



NIR screening

- Muscle abnormalities is a growing challenge for commercial broiler production

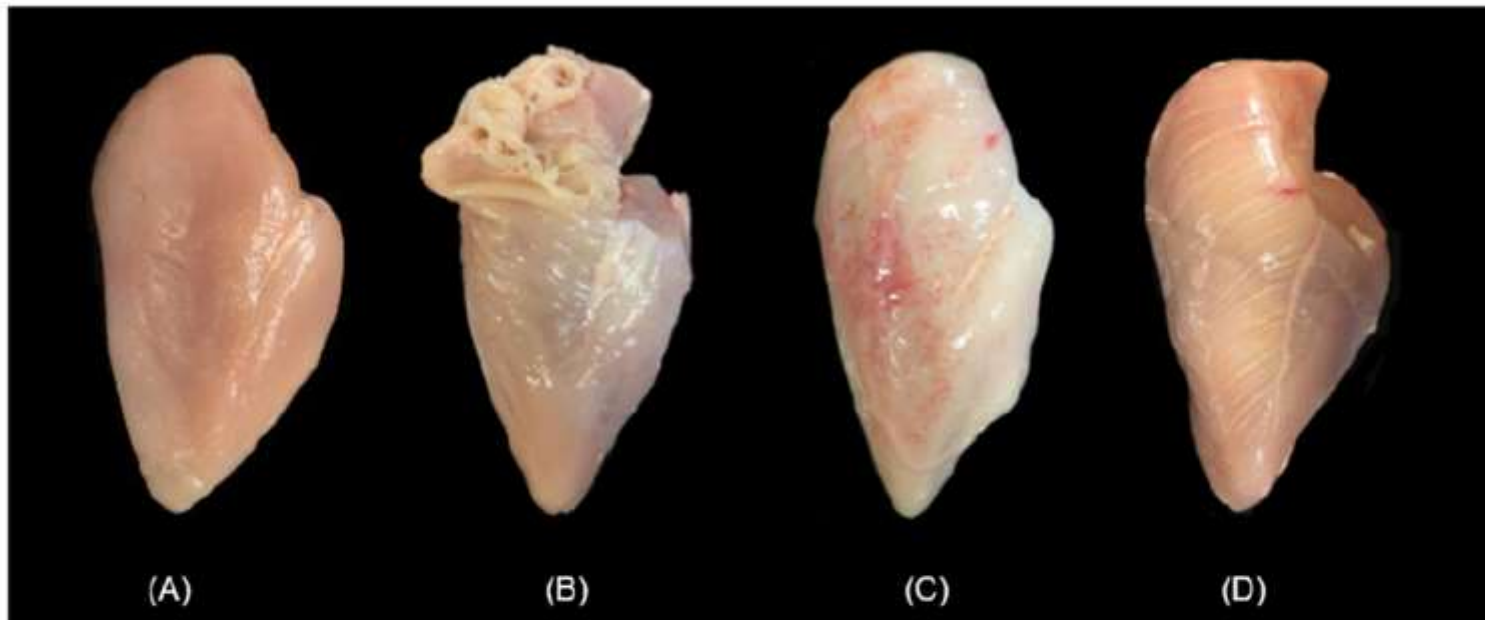


Figure 5. Myopathies in young broilers showing a normal fillet (A), spaghetti meat (B), the so-called woody-breast (C), and a fillet with white striping (D). Images by S. Barbut Lab.

NIR screening

- Near Infrared Spectroscopy can fast and non-invasively detect muscle abnormalitis.



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Rapid on-line detection and grading of wooden breast myopathy in chicken fillets by near-infrared spectroscopy

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¹ Nofima AS, Norwegian Institute for Food and Fisheries Research, Muninbakken 9–13, Brevikva, Tromsø, Norway, ² Nortura SA, Lørenveien 37, Oslo, Norway

Table 1. Approximate chemical composition, color and pH in normal breast muscle and wooden breast muscle.

	Normal day 1&2	Normal day 3	Moderate WB	Severe WB
	Whole fillet	Upper 1 cm	Upper 1 cm	Upper 1 cm
	(n = 99)	(n = 15)	(n = 15)	(n = 13)
Moisture %	74.9 ± 0.86	75.3 ± 0.66	79.1 ± 1.49 [*]	79.6 ± 1.49 [*]
Protein %	23.5 ± 0.89	23.5 ± 0.64	18.9 ± 1.22 [*]	18.4 ± 1.47 [*]
Fat %	1.6 ± 0.62	1.25 ± 0.50 [†]	1.8 ± 0.53	2.0 ± 0.67 [*]
	(n = 154)			
L [*]	56.10 ± 3.70	52.7 ± 2.68 [†]	60.3 ± 1.7	59.8 ± 2.3 [*]
a [*]	2.97 ± 1.32	2.46 ± 0.62	2.34 ± 0.91	4.56 ± 2.9 [*]
b [*]	7.41 ± 2.92	5.19 ± 1.22	8.84 ± 1.48 [*]	10.52 ± 1.85 [*]
pH	5.99 ± 0.12	6.3 ± 0.10 [†]	6.3 ± 0.16 [†]	6.3 ± 0.09 [†]

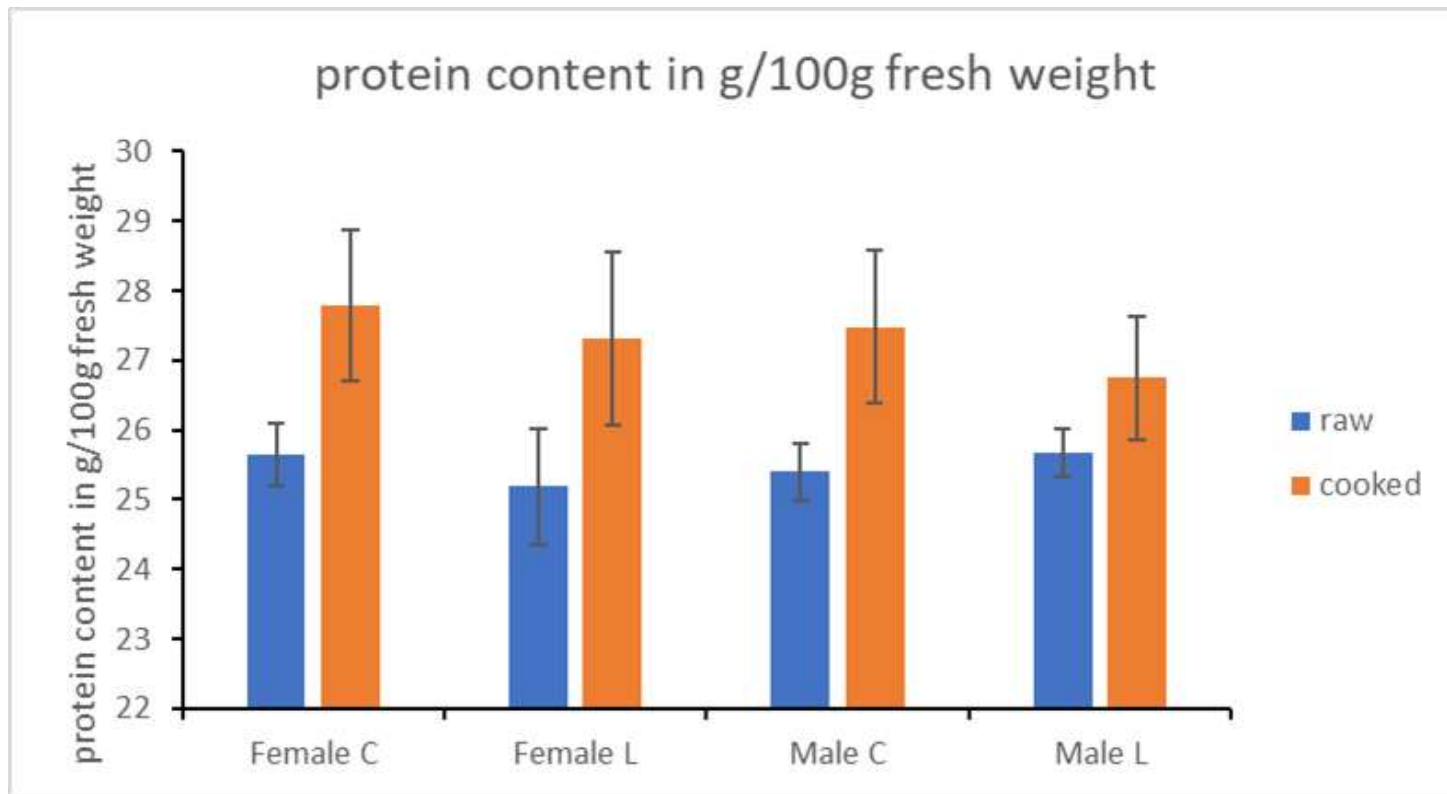


NIR measurements

		estimated protein content with NIR	
		%	
1 st set (2022)	control male		22.5 +/- 0.5 ^A
	larvae male		22.4 +/- 0.4 ^A
	control female		22.1 +/- 0.7 ^B
	larvae female		22.3 +/- 0.7 ^{AB}
		Time of slaughter	estimated protein content with NIR
			%
2 nd set (2023)	CONTROL	1	23.4 +/- 0.3 ^A
	LIVE LARVAE	1	23.2 +/- 0.3 ^A
	CONTROL	2	23.6 +/- 0.7 ^A
	LIVE LARVAE	2	23.6 +/- 0.9 ^A

- Significant interaction Sex * Feed in 2022-set

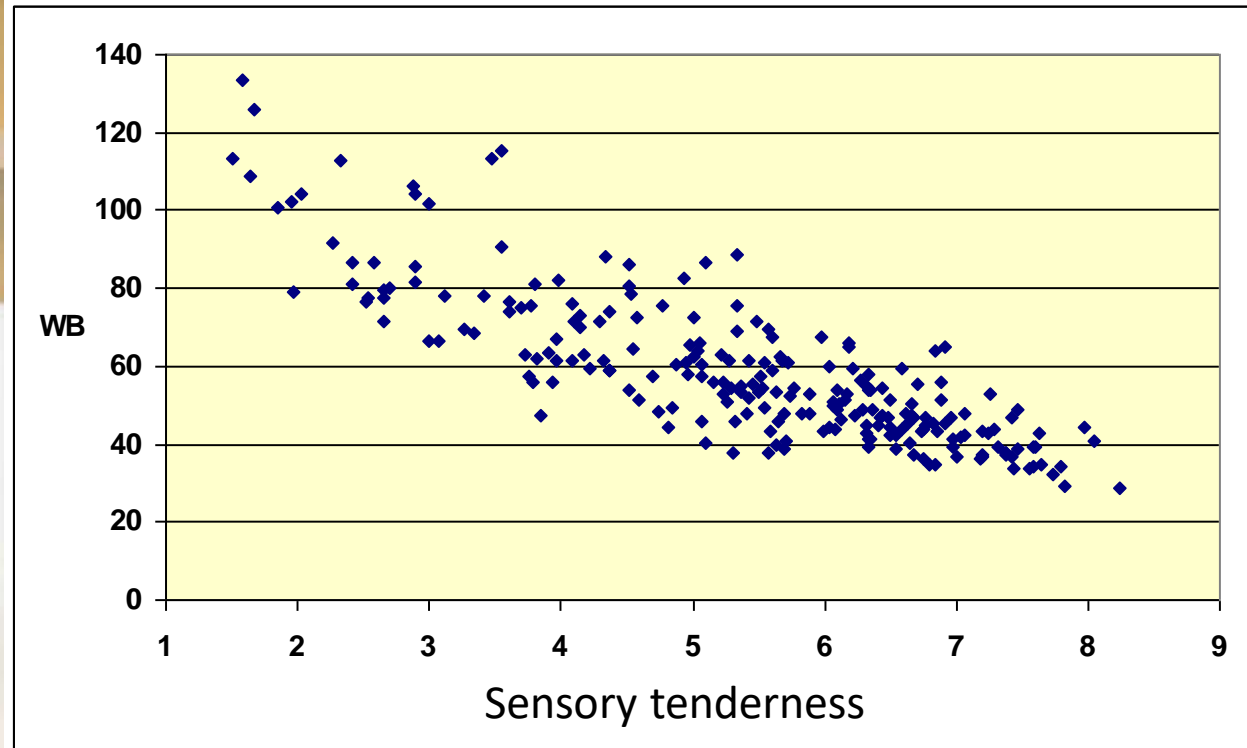
Measured protein (2022)



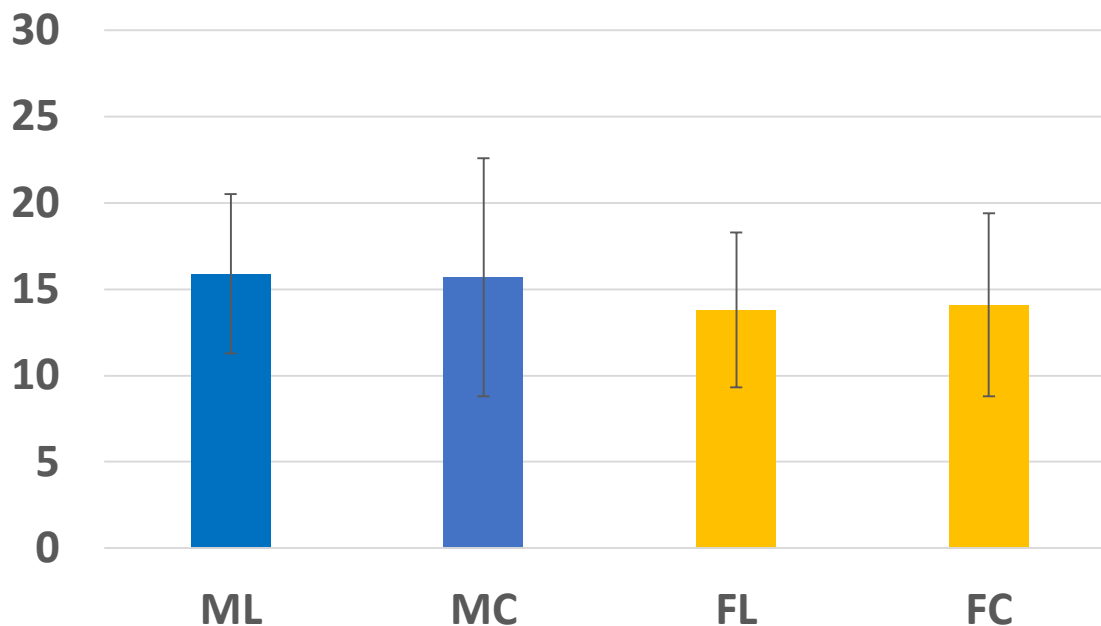
- NIR predicted less protein than actual

Instrumental Tenderness

- Warner-Bratzler (WB) shear force
- Highly correlated with sensory tenderness



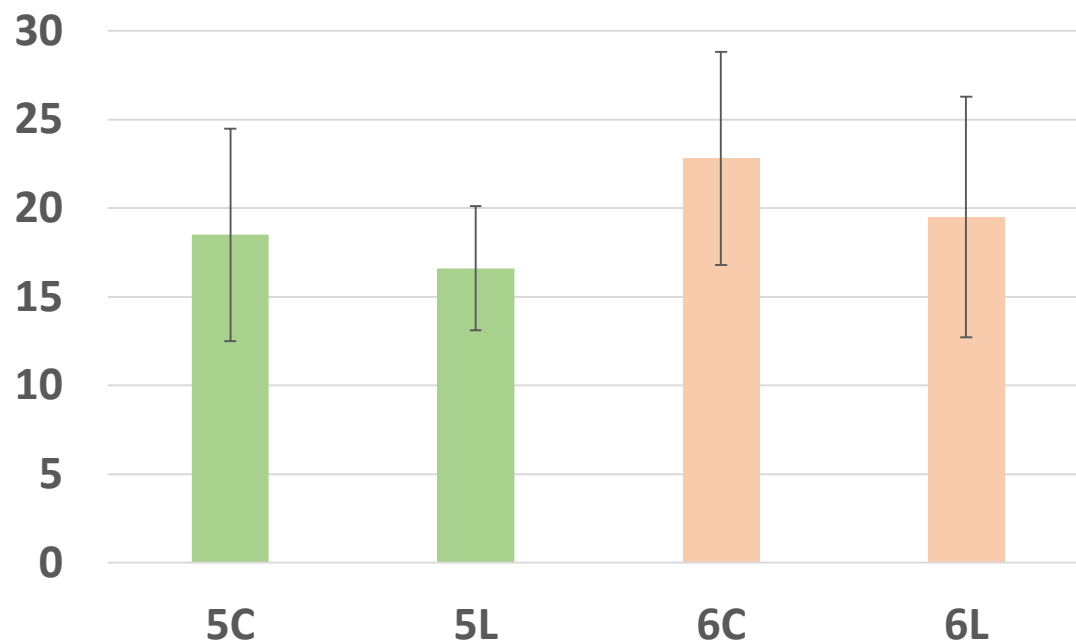
WB Shear force, 2022



M: male
F: female
L: Feed with larvea
C: Control feed

- No significant differences
- Tendency for higher female tenderness

WB Shear force, 2023



5: slaughtered after 5 months
6: slaughtered after 6 months
C: Controle feed
F: Feed with live larvea

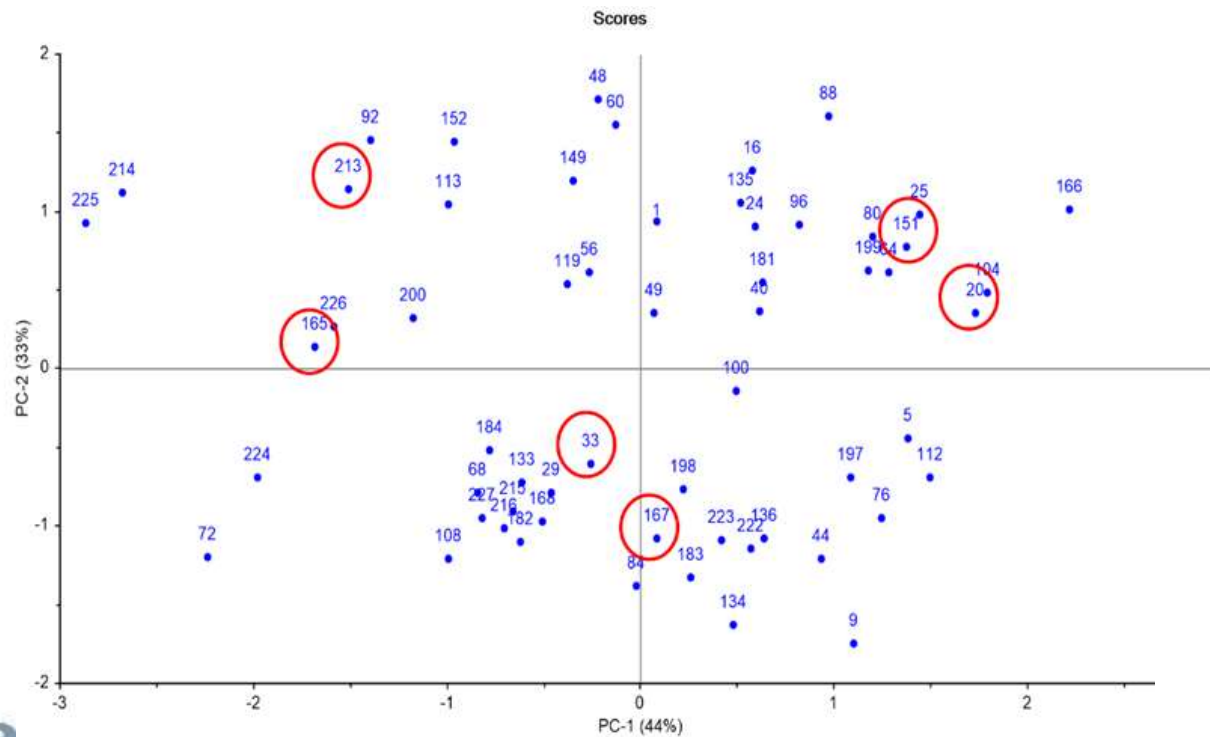
- No significant differences
- Tendency that larvae feed gave lower shear force
- Tendency that younger chicken had lower shear force

In-vitro digestion

- Laboratory method which mimic the human digestion
- SEC (Size Exclusion Chromatography) of peptides gives information about digestibility
- TBARS (Thiobarbituric acid reactive substances) indicates lipid oxidation and oxidative stress

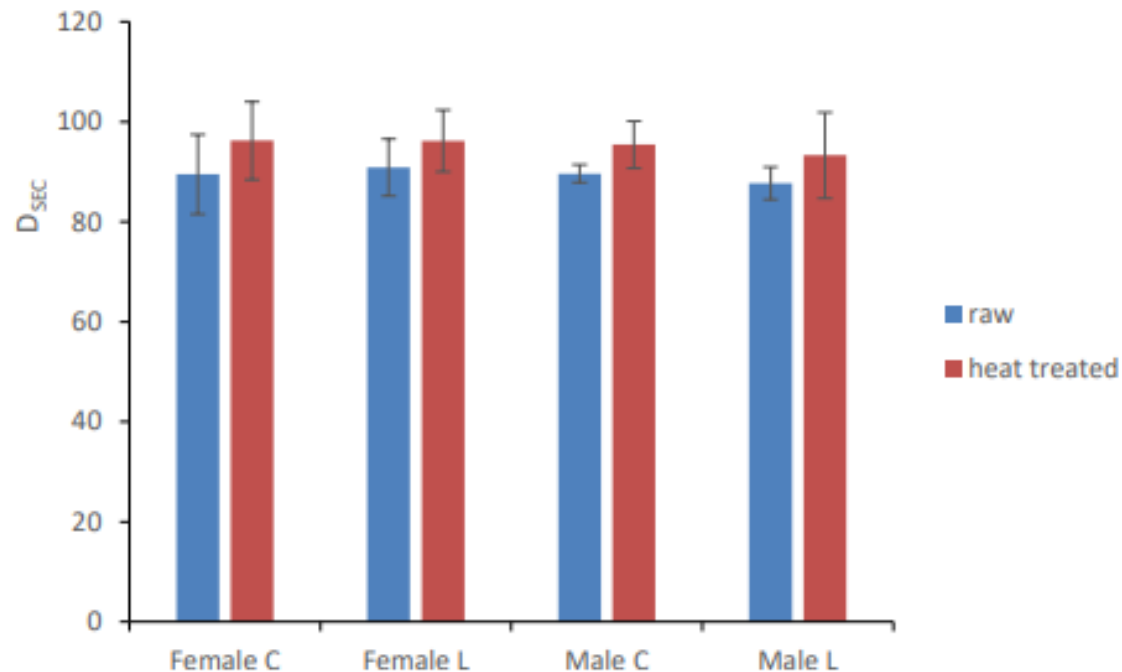
Selection of samples

- PCA based on Protein, thaw loss and sample weight.



In-vitro digestion, 2022

- D_{SEC} : proportion of peptides $MW < 1$ kDa



- No significant effects



In-vitro digestion, 2022

- TBARS values

	raw fillet	heat treated fillet	digested fillet
	$\mu\text{mol MDA/kg}$	$\mu\text{mol MDA/kg}$	$\mu\text{mol MDA/kg}$
control male	0.2 +/- 0.7 [^]	5.9 +/- 1.7 [^]	24.8 +/- 15.1 [^]
larvae male	0.02 +/- 0.2 [^]	5.2 +/- 2.8 [^]	20.7 +/- 15.7 [^]
control female	0.14 +/- 0.2 [^]	6.8 +/- 3.1 [^]	22.5 +/- 12.8 [^]
larvae female	0.24 +/- 0.3 [^]	7.7 +/- 4.9 [^]	26.4 +/- 19.0 [^]

- No significant effects

In-vitro digestion, 2023

- D_{SEC} : proportion of peptides $MW < 1$ kDa

	Time of slaughter	Soluble protein %	Small peptides %	Protein digestibility (D_{SEC}) %
CONTROL	1	98.2 +/- 0.5	93.2 +/- 0.1	91.6 +/- 0.5
LIVE LARVAE	1	98.2 +/- 0.2	93.3 +/- 0.1	91.6 +/- 0.2
CONTROL	2	97.7 +/- 1.7	93.3 +/- 0.1	91.2 +/- 1.7
LIVE LARVAE	2	98.2 +/- 0.1	93.4 +/- 0.1	91.7 +/- 0.1

- No significant effects

In-vitro digestion, 2023

- TBARS values

	Time of slaughter	raw fillet μmol MDA/kg	heat treated fillet μmol MDA/kg
CONTROL	1	1.8 +/- 0.2 ^A	51.5 +/- 2.5 ^A
LIVE LARVAE	1	1.8 +/- 0.3 ^A	37.3 +/- 2.6 ^B
CONTROL	2	1.6 +/- 0.2 ^A	23.6 +/- 4.1 ^C
LIVE LARVAE	2	1.8 +/- 0.4 ^A	24.8 +/- 3.4 ^C

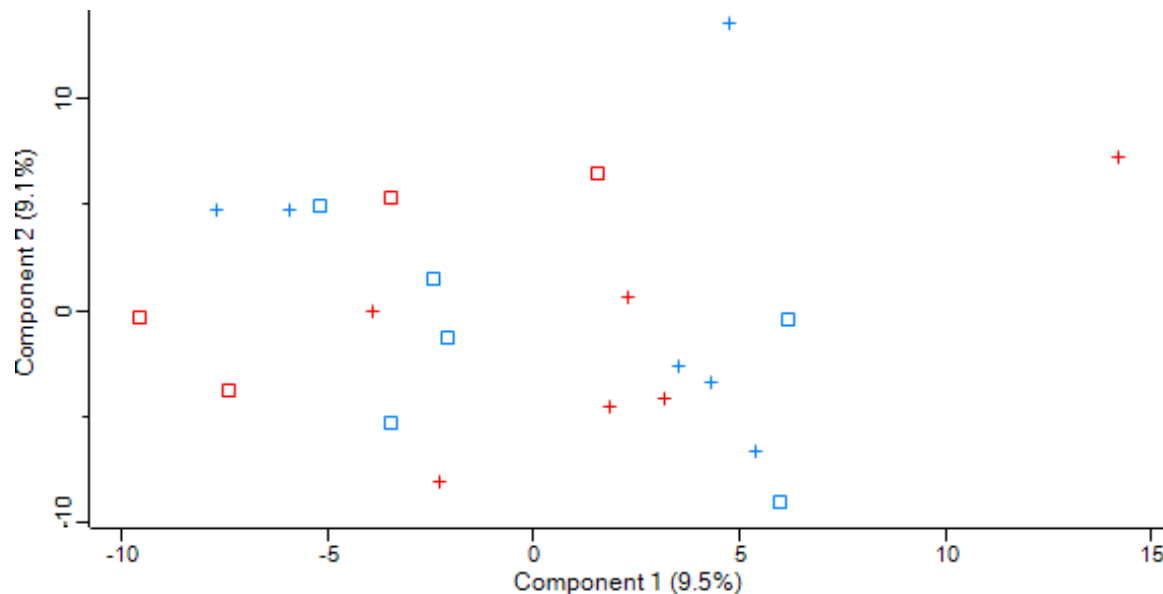
- Slaughter time2 had lower values for the heat treated samples

Proteomics

- Method(s) where large number of proteins are studied to reveal effects of factors like feed, age, sex, rearing, slaughtering, *p.m* meat handling,....

Proteomics

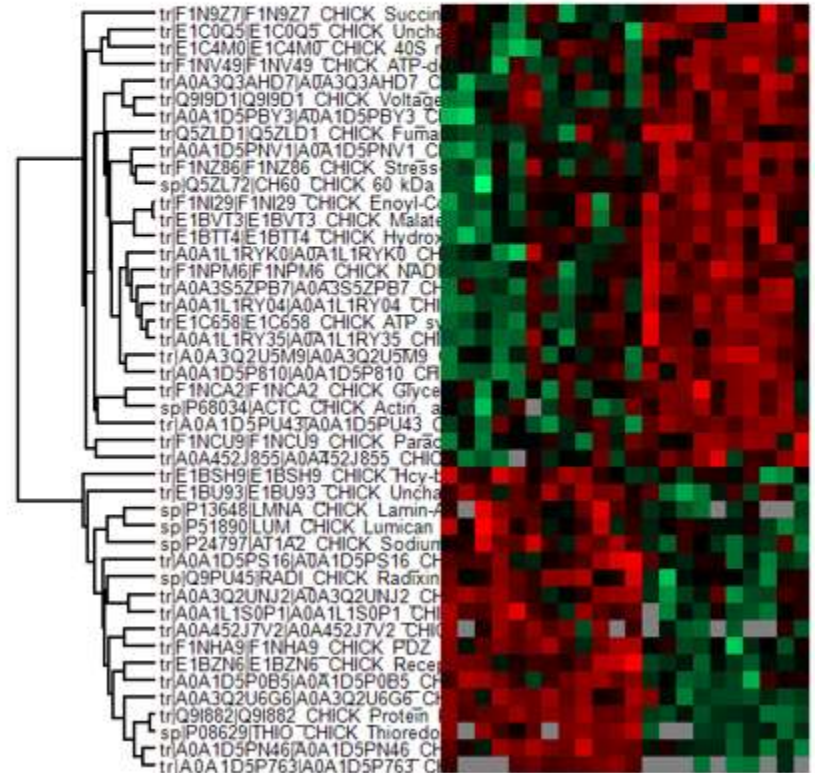
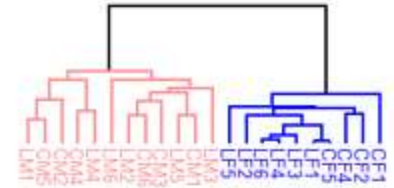
- 24 samples selected from the 2022 set
- Approximately 500 different proteins were identified
- Principal component analysis showed no clear separation according to their diet or sex



Proteomics

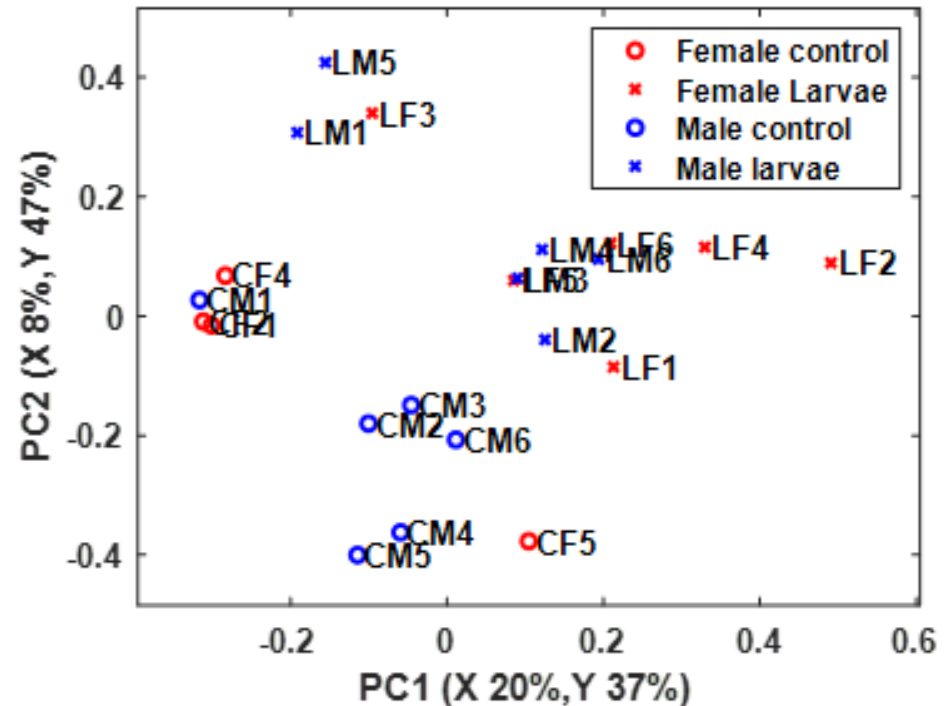
- Effect of sex

45 proteins were differently expressed between males and females



Proteomics

- Multivariate techniques were used to cluster samples
- Feed had no practical impact on protein expression



summary

- Larvae feeding had no negative (or beneficial) effects on the measured meat quality parameters



POULTRYNSECT



SENSORY ANALYSIS OF THE MEAT FROM INSECT-FED CHICKEN



Giulia Maria Daniele
Institute for BioEconomy - Bologna
BioAgrofood Department
CNR - Italian National Research Council

Final Symposium
Rome 27 October 2023

IBE-CNR SENSORY TEAM



Stefano Predieri
(coordinator)



**Marta
Cianciabella**



**Giulia Maria
Daniele**



**Massimiliano
Magli**



Edoardo Gatti



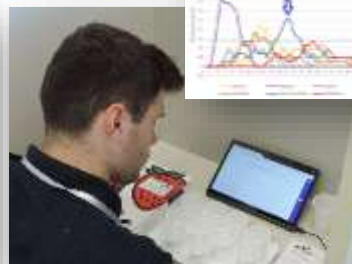
Chiara Medoro



Nico Lippi

- Research projects (Poultrynsect, Breeding Value, Ecofrutta, ONFOOD)

- Collaboration with private companies (DOP certification, Quality control and Shelf Life studies)



Laboratory:

- 14 booths
- Tablet online
- Software for data collection
- Trained judges

PANEL TEST

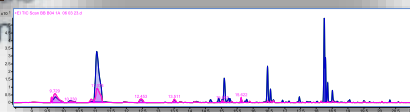
- Test with consumers
- Questionnaires and online survey

CONSUMER SCIENCE



- Gas Chromatography (GC) and Gas Chromatography/Olfactometry (GC/O)
- Chemical and physical analysis (Texturometers, Colorimeter)

INSTRUMENTAL ANALYSIS



“Sensory evaluation is a scientific discipline used to evoke, measure, analyse and interpret reactions to those characteristics of foods and materials as they are perceived by the senses of sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing”

Institute of Food Technologists, 1975; Lawless, H.T. 2010

THE KEY DISTINCTION IN THE SENSORY EVALUATION APPROACH

(By O'Mahoney M.)

TYPE I: reliability and sensitivity are key factors, and the judges are trained to be reliable and consistent like an **analytical instrument**, used to detect and measure the attributes of a food product.

Sensory properties



TIPE II: participants are chosen as representative of the consuming population, they are not trained and should evaluate food under ‘naturalistic’ conditions. The emphasis here is on the prediction of **consumer preferences**.

Hedonic properties



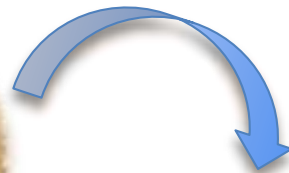
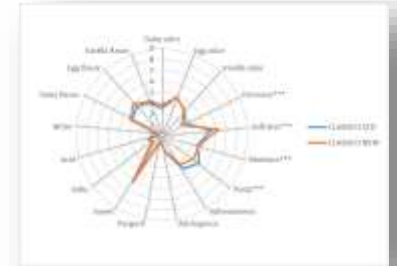
CONSUMER TEST



SENSORY SCIENCE GOALS



- Sensory description of a food product (sensory profile)
- Monitoring the conformity to standards
- Compare products after changing formulation
- Assessment of off-flavour or taint due to product treatment
- Monitoring the shelf life effect on products
- Sensory evaluation of new product developed



TRIALS I & II, 2021-2022

Methodology



- Vacuum-packed bags, stored for a night at a temperature of 4°C
- Boiling in a water bath at a range temperature of 75 - 85 °C for 40 minutes using induction plates
- color (CIELab) after cooking
- loss of weight after cooking





TRIAL I 2021

Sensory analysis of fresh breast from insect-fed chicken

TRIAL I 2021

Instrumental Results



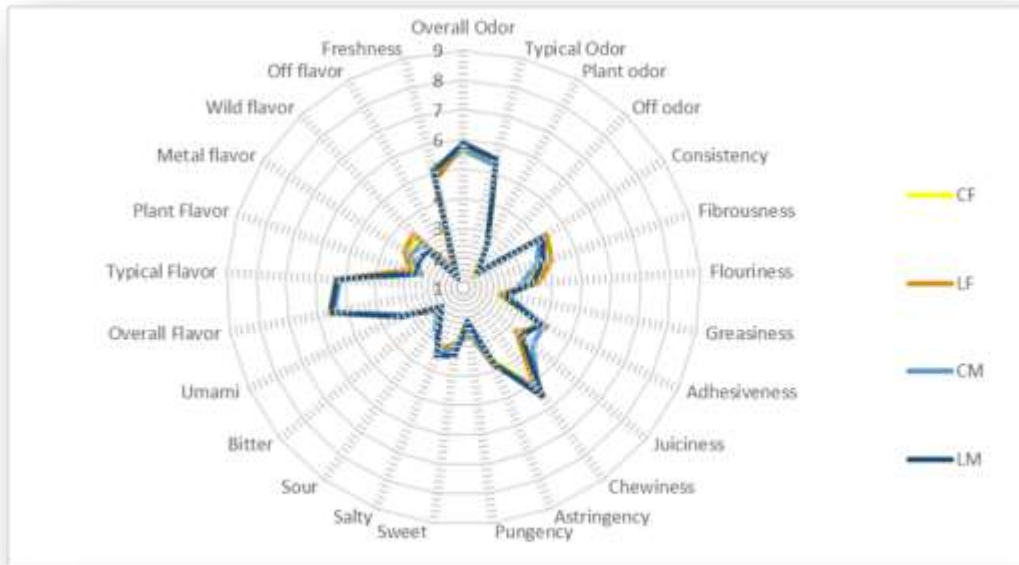
Breast Type	L	a	b*
CF	83.2	1.1	17.1 a
	78.7	2.8	19.2 a
	72.8	3.5	18.0 a
CM	81.6	2.4	15.4 b
	82.1	1.7	16.4 b
	80.6	2.4	14.9 b
LF	81.7	1.2	17.4 a
	79.4	2.3	15.4 a
	81.2	1.5	16.8 a
LM	81.2	2.1	15.8 b
	82.3	2.1	14.0 b
	80.5	2.9	14.8 b

Breasts Type	Weight Loss % (μ)
CF	26.0 n.s.
CM	21.0 n.s.
LF	23.6 n.s.
LM	19.6 n.s.



CF = Control Female CM = Control Male LF = Larvae Female LM = Larvae Male

TRIAL I 2021 Sensory Results



Breast Type	CF	LF	CM	LM
Overall Odor	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.9
Typical Odor	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.5
Plant Odor	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7
Off Odor	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.7
Consistency	4.4	4.3	4.0	4.2
Fibrousness	3.7	4.1	3.6	3.8
Flouriness	3.3	3.5	3.0	3.3
Greasiness	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.4
Adhesiveness	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.9
Juiciness	3.5	3.3	4.0	3.5
Chewiness	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.5
Astringency	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.8
Pungency	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.1
Sweet	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.3
Salty	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.5
Sour	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.3
Bitter	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.0
Umami	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3
Overall Flavor	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5
Typical Flavor	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3
Plant Flavor	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.6
Metal Flavor	3.3	3.4	3.1	2.8
Wild Flavor	3.1	3.5	3.0	2.7
Off Flavor	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.4
Freshness	5.2	4.8	5.1	5.0

Cullere *et al.*, 2018;
Cullere *et al.*, 2019;
Pieterse *et al.*, 2019





TRIAL II 2022

Sensory analysis of fresh breast from insect-fed chicken at two different slaughtered ages

TRIAL II 2022 Instrumental Results



Slaughter age	Breast Type	L	a	b***
150 days	MS	77.8	2.7	17.7 a
	LV	76.0	3.1	16.1 a
	MC	77.0	3.4	13.7 b
180 days	MS	79.1	2.5	15.4 a
	LV	79.8	2.3	15.4 a
	MC	79.3	2.8	12.8 b

Slaughtered age	Weight Loss % (μ)
150 DAYS	26,3
	25,1
	28,2
180 DAYS	18,3
	16,0
	17,6

MS = Sustainable Feed LV = Live Larvae based feed MC = Commercial Feed

TRIAL II 2022

Sensory Results



**150
DAYS**

	LV 150GG	MC 150GG	MS 150GG
Overall odor	5,8	6,0	6,3
Typical odor	5,5	5,6	5,9
Plant odor	2,6	2,6	2,6
Off odor	1,4	1,3	1,3
Consistency*	5,2 a	5,0 ab	4,4 b
Fibrousness	4,4	4,1	3,9
Flouriness	3,0	2,8	2,7
Greasiness	2,5	2,5	2,9
Adhesiveness	3,9	3,7	3,7
Juiciness	3,3	3,3	3,5
Chewiness	4,7	4,7	4,9
Astringency	3,5	3,7	3,5
Pungency	2,1	1,9	2,1
Sweet	3,0	3,1	3,0
Salty	3,5	3,4	3,5
Sour	1,7	1,7	1,8
Bitter	1,6	1,6	1,7
Umami	3,7	3,7	3,6
Overall flavor	5,6	5,8	5,9
Typical flavor	5,3	5,3	5,4
Plant flavor	2,6	2,6	2,6
Metallic flavor	2,2	2,4	2,4
Wild/animal flavor	2,4	2,3	2,5
Off flavor	1,6	1,3	1,5
Freshness	5,0	5,0	4,9



TRIAL II 2022 Sensory Results

	LV 180GG	MC 180GG	MS 180GG
Overall odor	5,3	5,4	5,7
Typical odor*	5,1b	5,4ab	5,7a
Plant odor	2,2	2,3	2,4
Off odor	1,5	1,4	1,4
Consistency**	4,9a	4,5ab	3,8b
Fibrousness*	4,4a	4,0ab	3,6b
Flouriness	2,9	2,7	2,8
Greasiness	2,7	2,7	2,7
Adhesiveness	3,4	3,5	3,5
Juiciness	3,1	3,4	3,2
Chewiness**	4,3b	4,8ab	5,5a
Astringency	3,2	3,5	3,5
Pungency	1,6	1,6	1,8
Sweet*	2,8a	2,4b	2,6ab
Salty	3,6	3,9	3,7
Sour	1,9	1,9	2,0
Bitter	1,8	1,6	1,8
Umami	4,0	4,1	4,1
Overall flavor	5,3	5,4	5,6
Typical flavor	5,2	5,3	5,5
Plant flavor*	2,1b	2,4ab	2,5a
Metallic flavor	2,5	2,6	2,4
Wild/animal flavor	2,2	2,1	2,0
Off flavor	1,3	1,3	1,4
Freshness	4,9	4,9	5,2

**180
DAYS**





POULTRYNSECT



Consumer opinion about the use of live insect larvae in poultry organic farming



Nico Lippi
IBE-CNR, Italy

 Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Istituto per la BioEconomia
Dipartimento di Scienze Bio Agroalimentari



Final Symposium
Rome 27 October 2023





IBE-CNR SENSORY LAB



- Sensory analysis (trained judges)
- Consumer science (tests with consumers, questionnaires, online survey)
- Instrumental Analysis

Laboratory equipped with:

- 14 booths
- Tablet online
- Software for data collection



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- INTRODUCTION
- QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN
 - RESULTS





INTRODUCTION



POULTRYNSECT

Online survey, Why??

COST



COMFORT & PRIVACY

**# WIDER
CONNECTION**



What??



ACCEPTANCE



DRIVERS



WILLINGNESS TO PAY

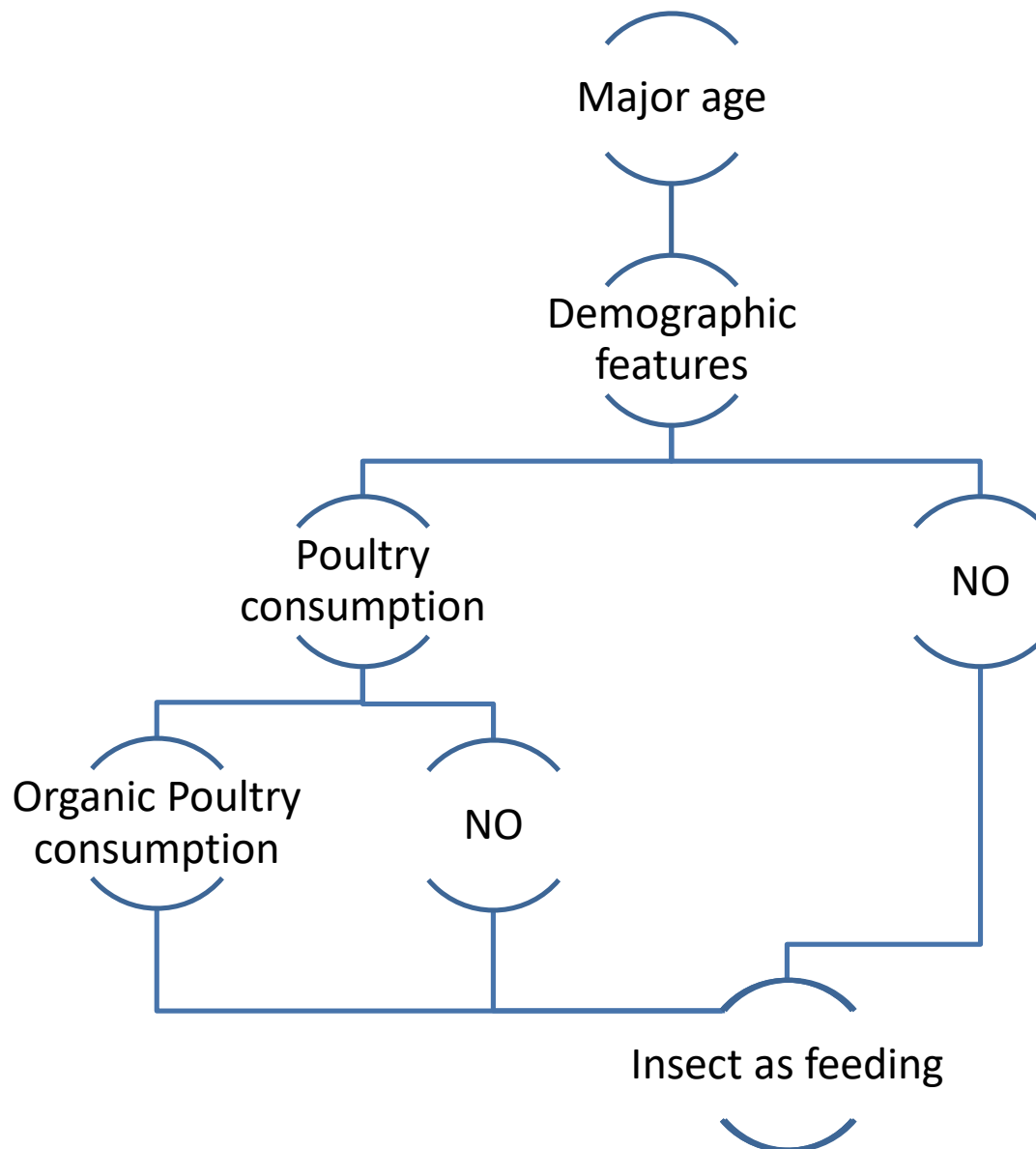


AWARENESS



TARGETING

Questionnaire design





RESULTS

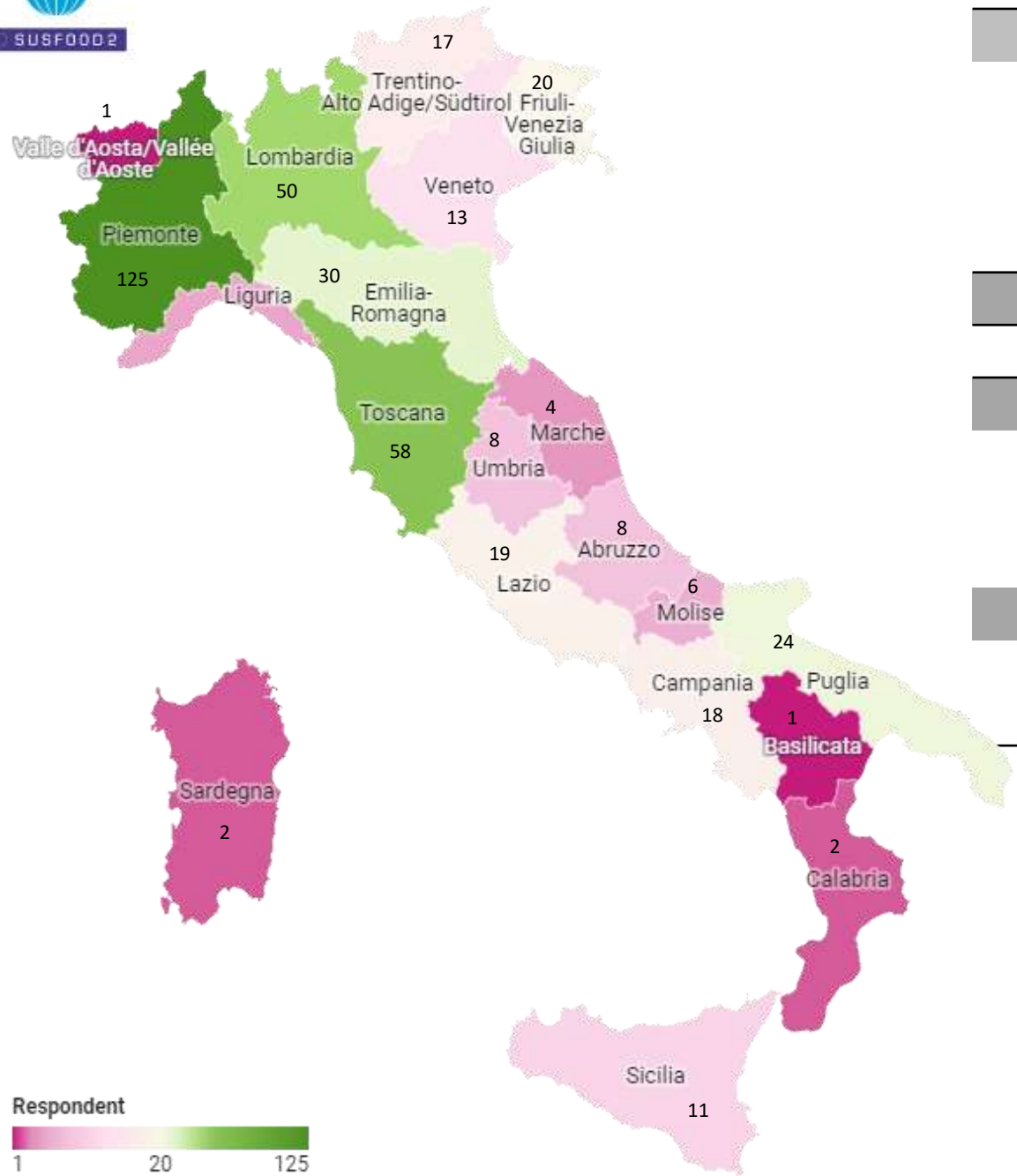
(Demographic features)





SUSFOOD2

CORE organic



Gender	n
Female	258
Male	161
No answer	2
Non binary	1
TOTAL	422
Age average	44.87
Level of instruction	
Bachelor/Master/PhD	312
High School	95
Primary school	15
DIET	
Omnivorous	403
Vegetarian	19



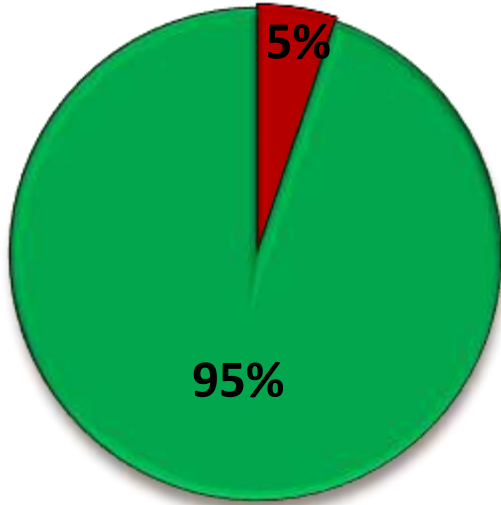
POULTRYNSECT

RESULTS

(Poultry consumption)



Poultry Consumption



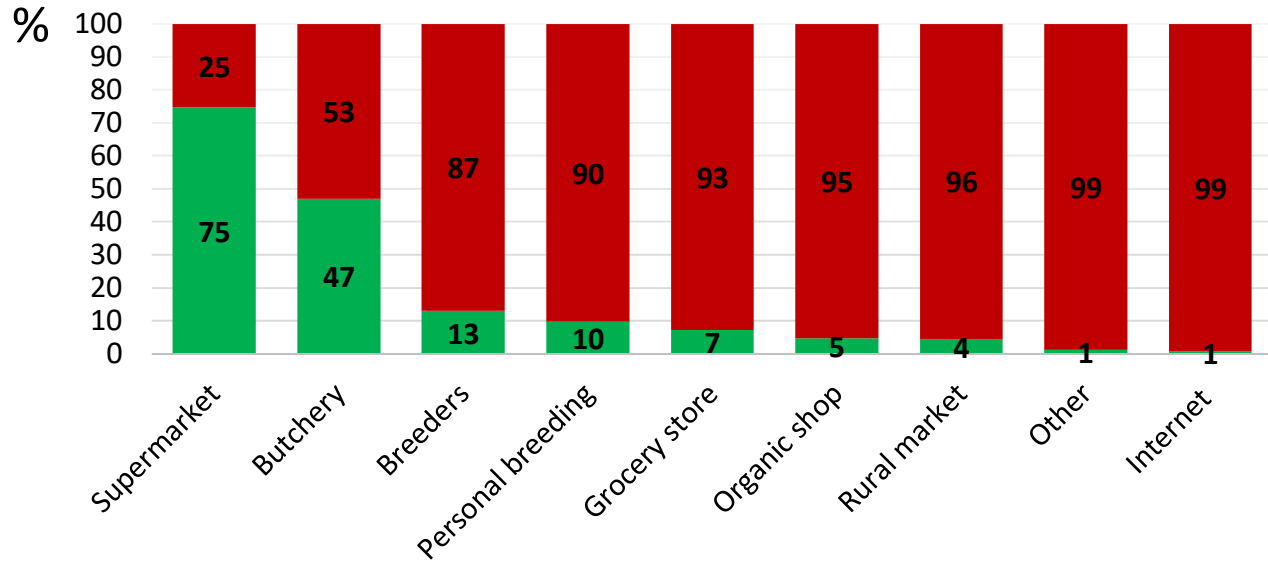
■ No ■ Yes

%

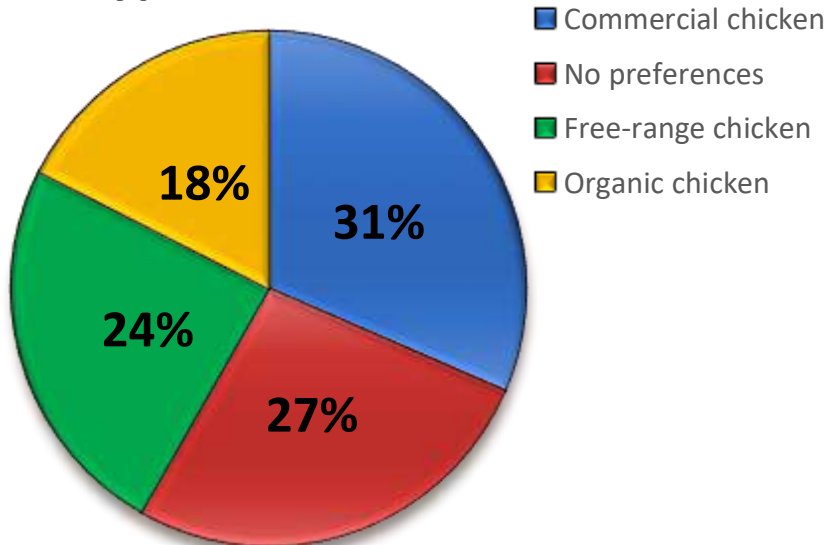
Consumption frequency



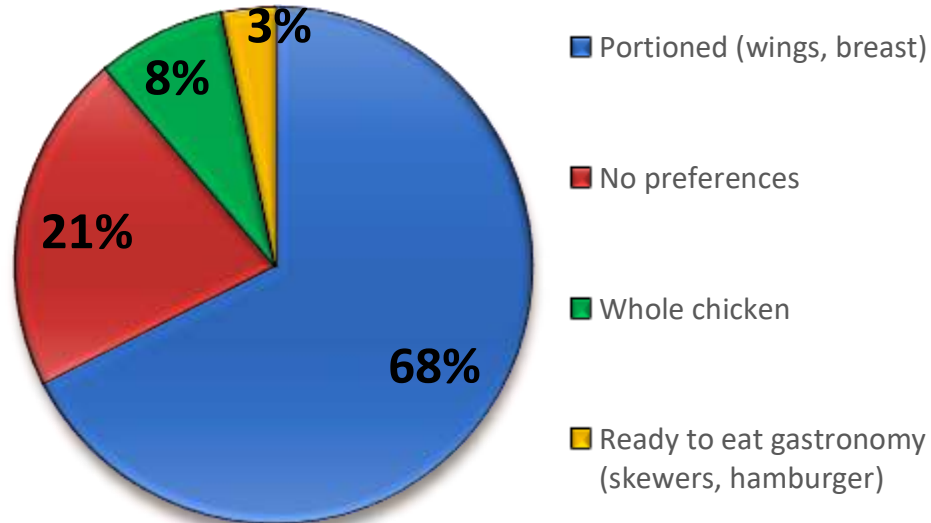
PURCHASE CHANNEL



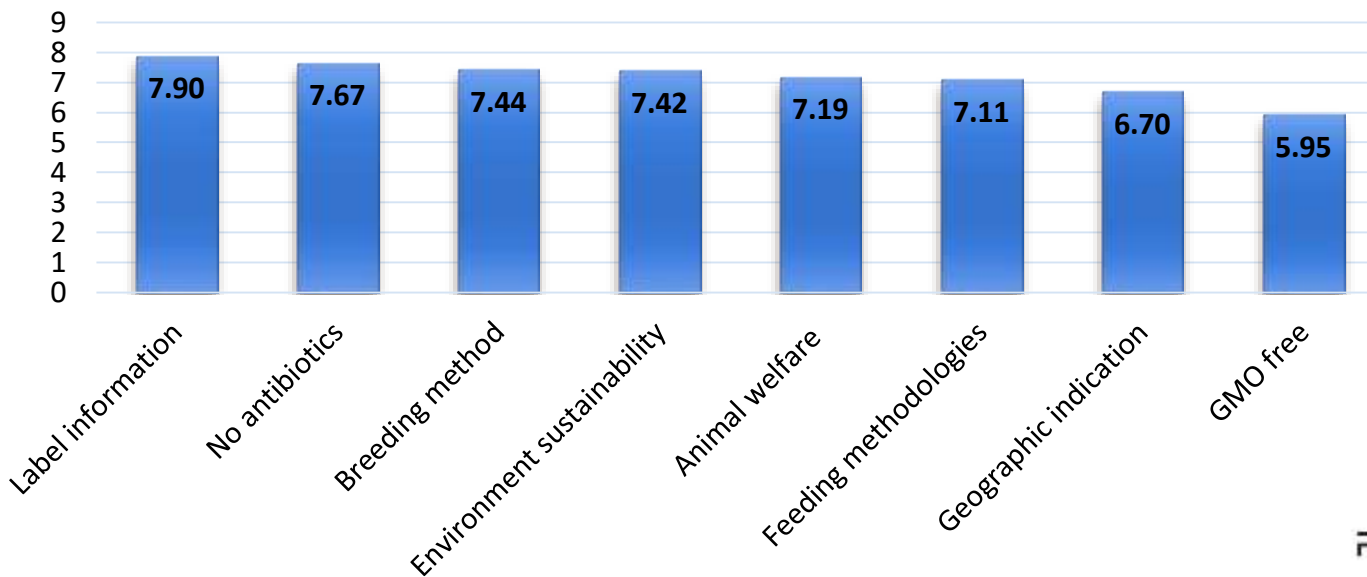
Type of chicken



Preferences of consumption



Label poultry drivers



RESULTS

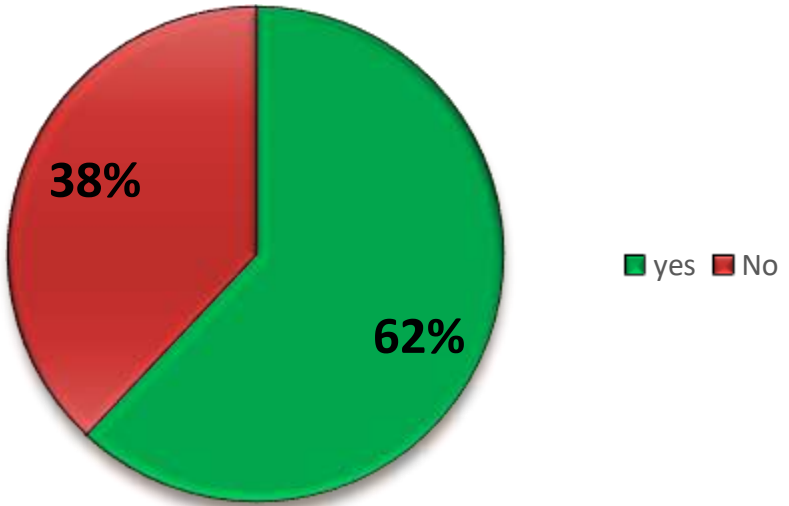
(Organic poultry consumption)





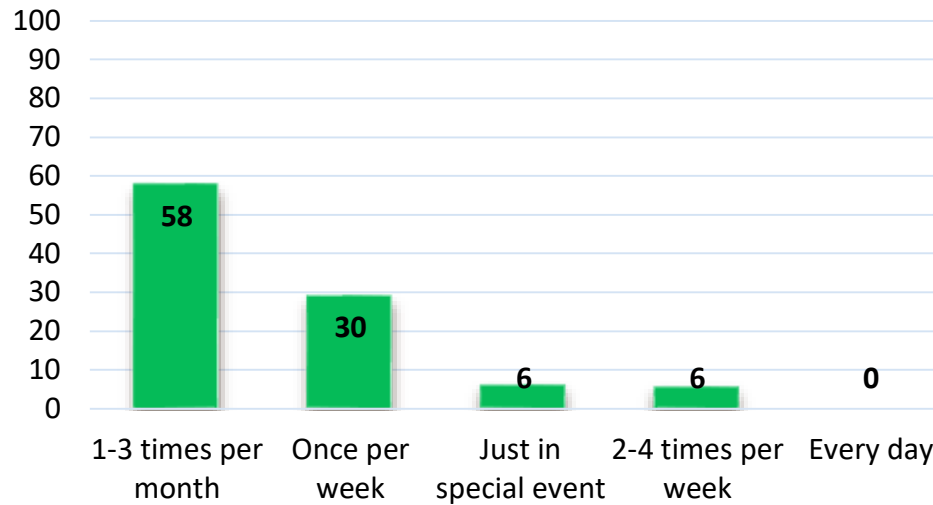
SUSFOOD2

Organic poultry consumption

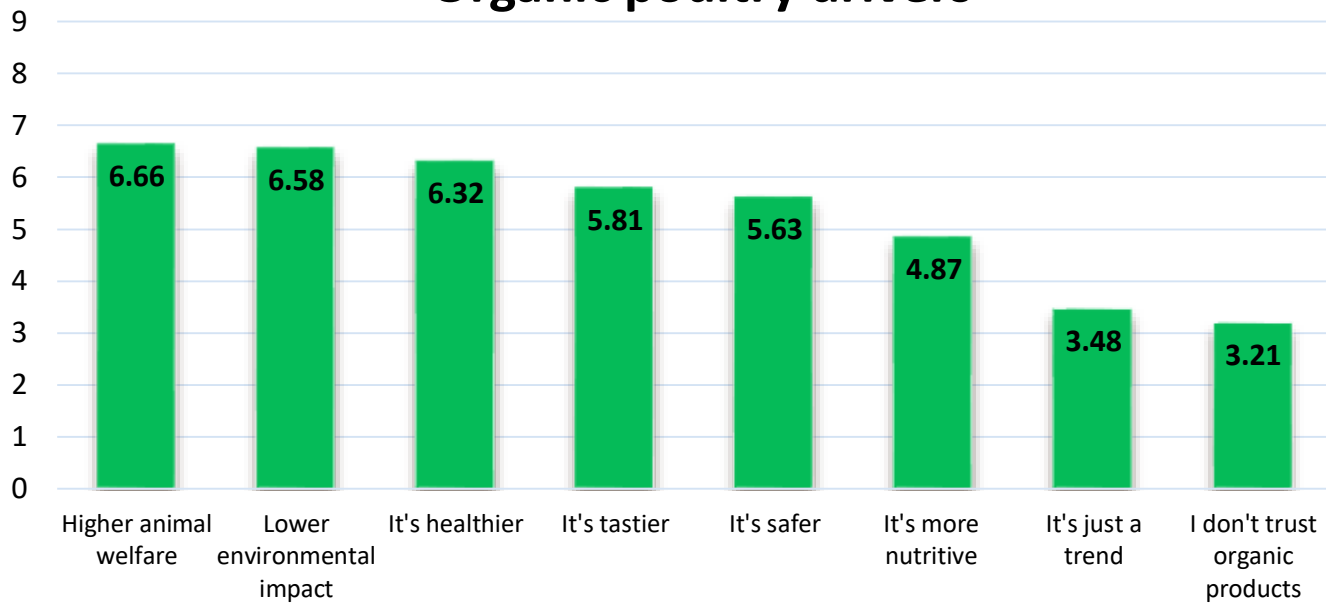


%

Consumption frequency

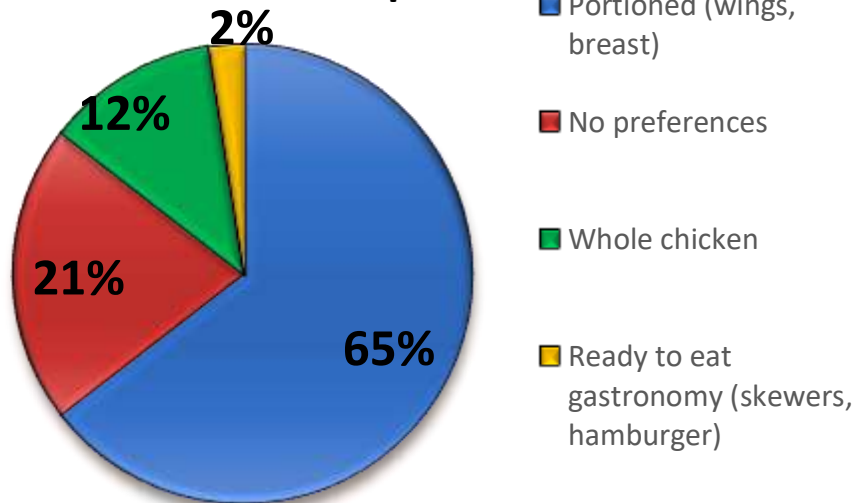


Organic poultry drivers



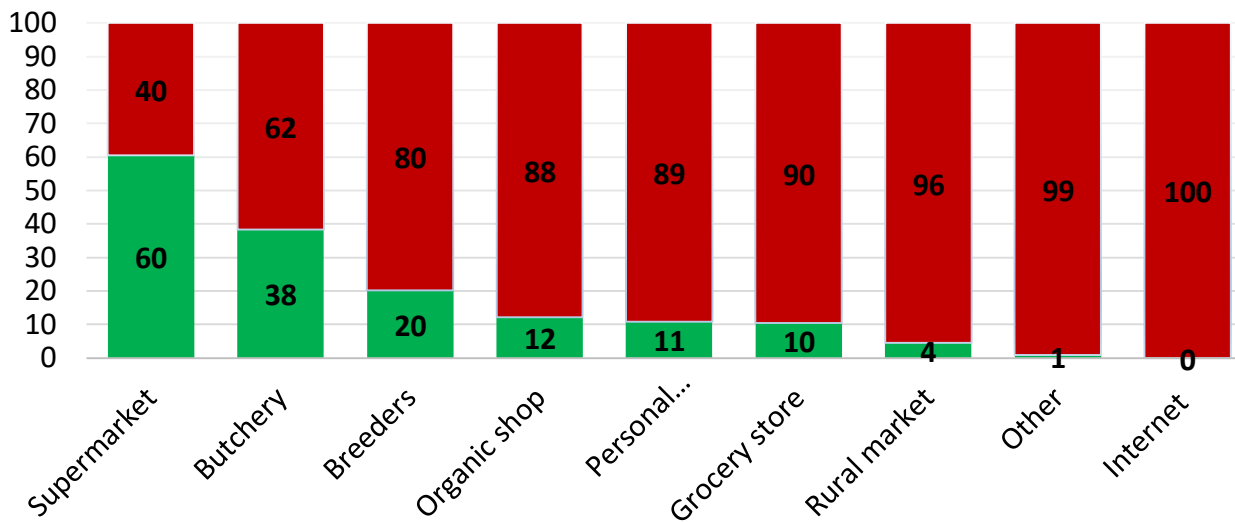
POULTRYNSECT

Preferences of consumption



%

PURCHASE CHANNEL

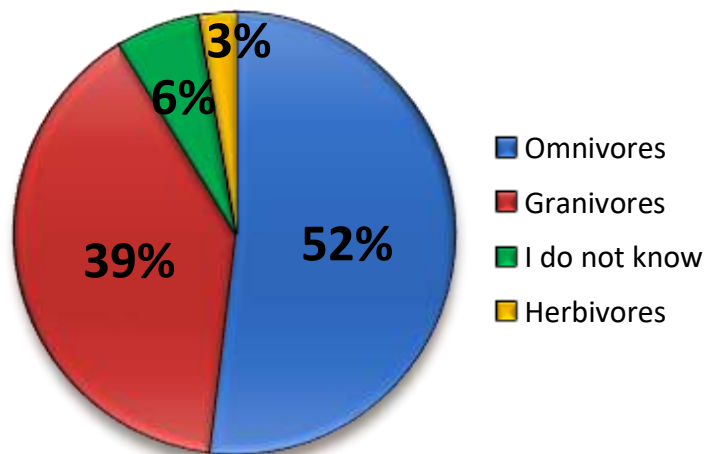


RESULTS

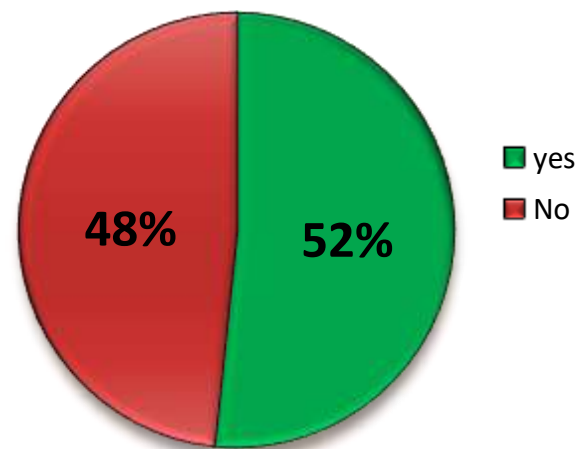
(Insect as poultry feeding)



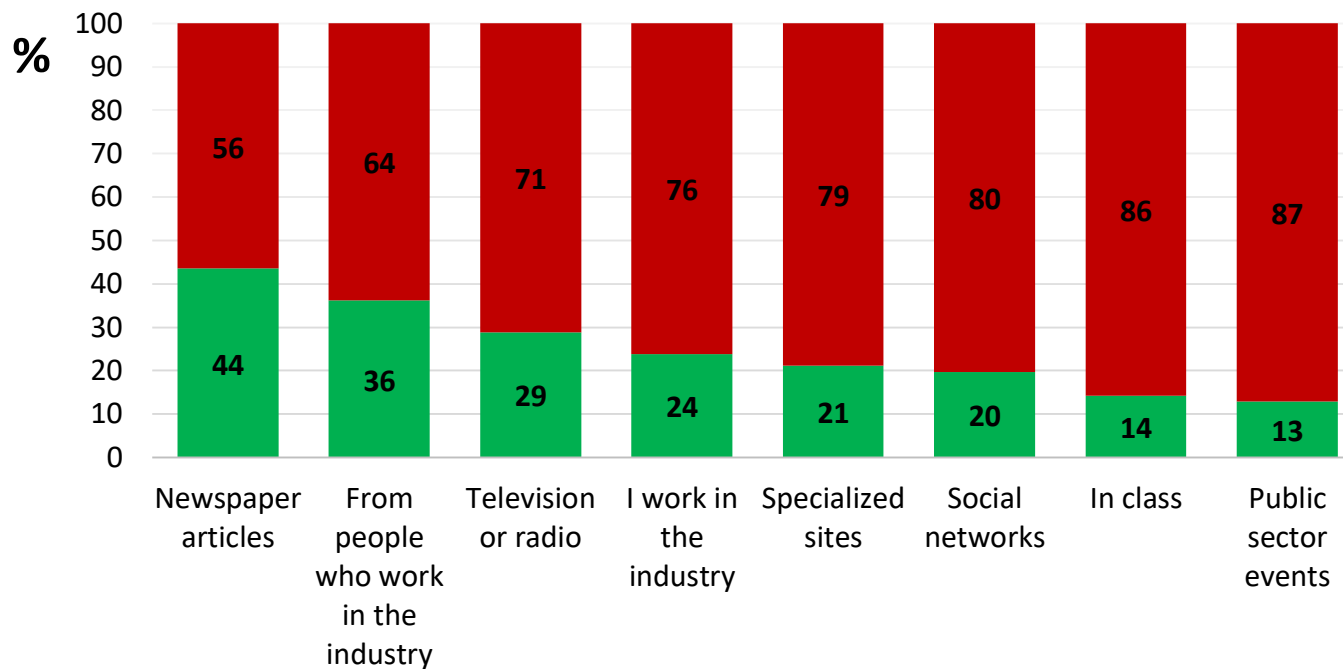
Poultry diet



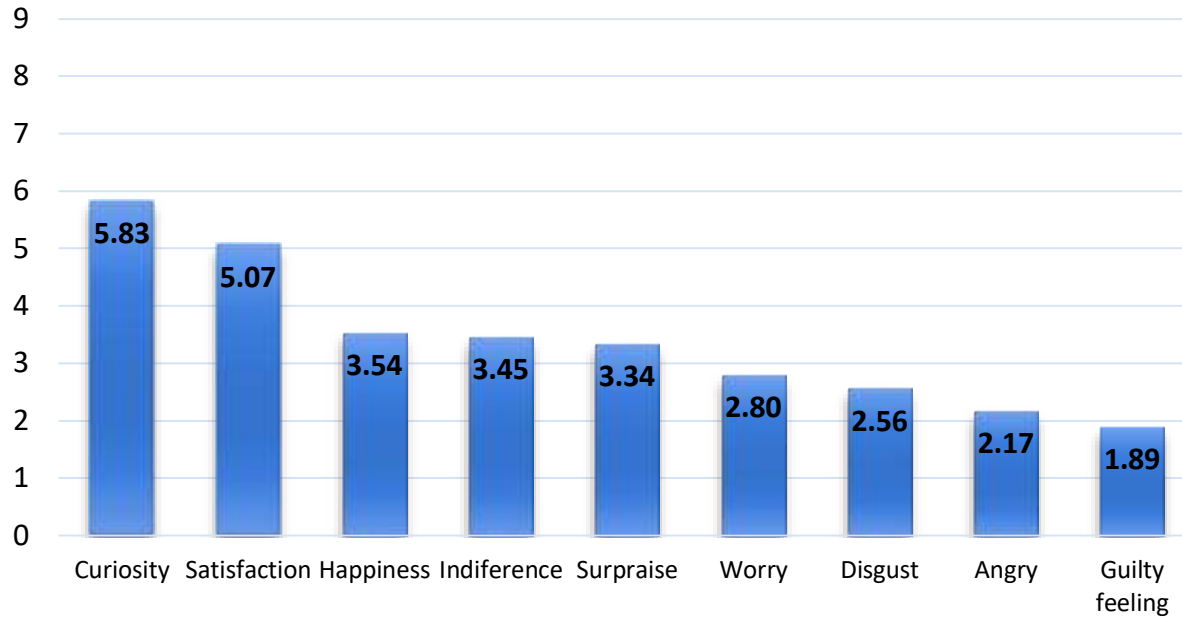
Did you ever hear about Insect as poultry feeding?



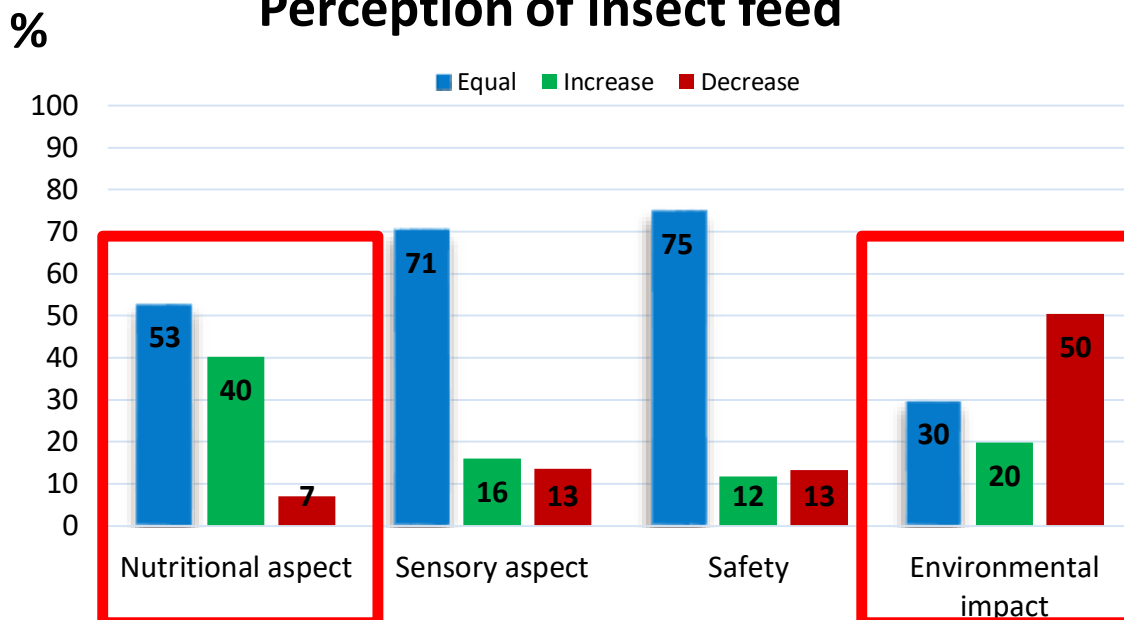
Channel of Information



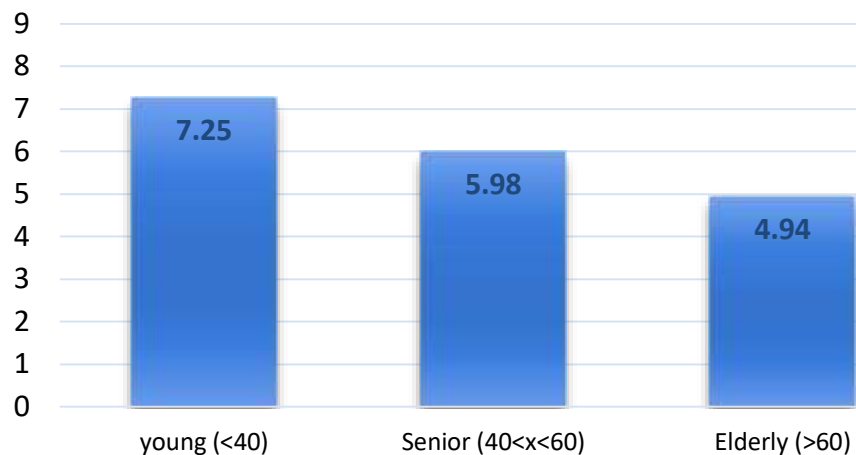
Emotional response



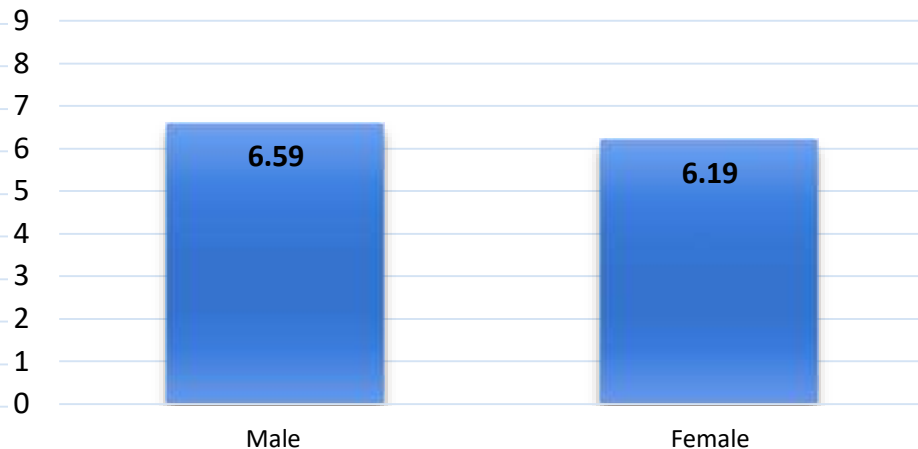
Perception of insect feed



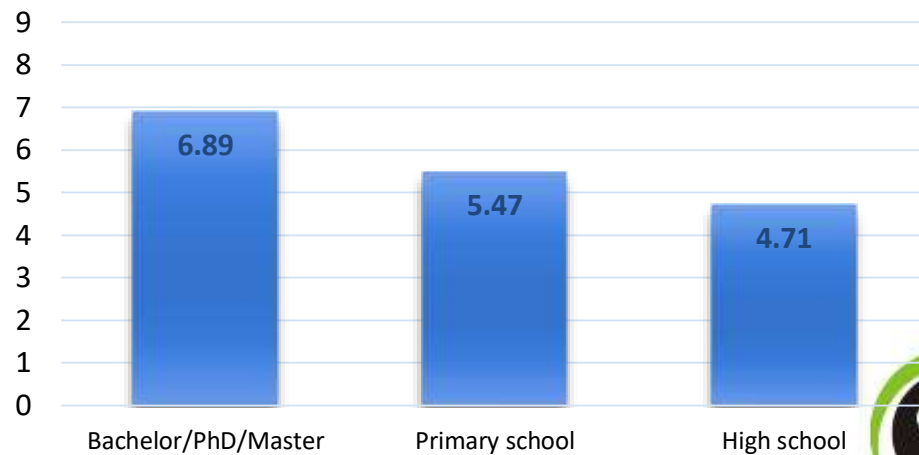
Age acceptance



Gender acceptance



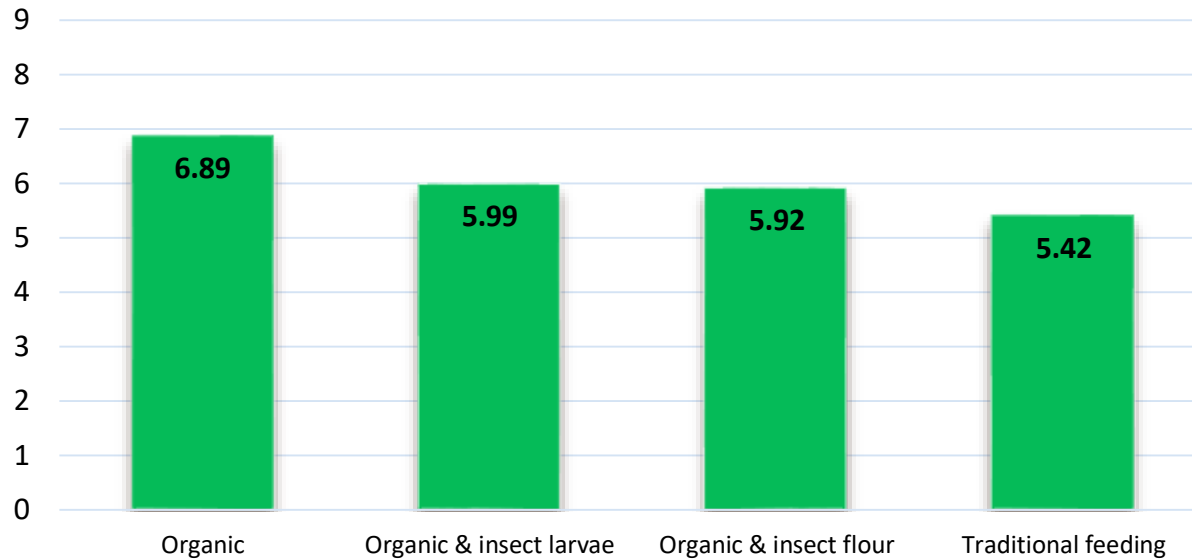
Education acceptance



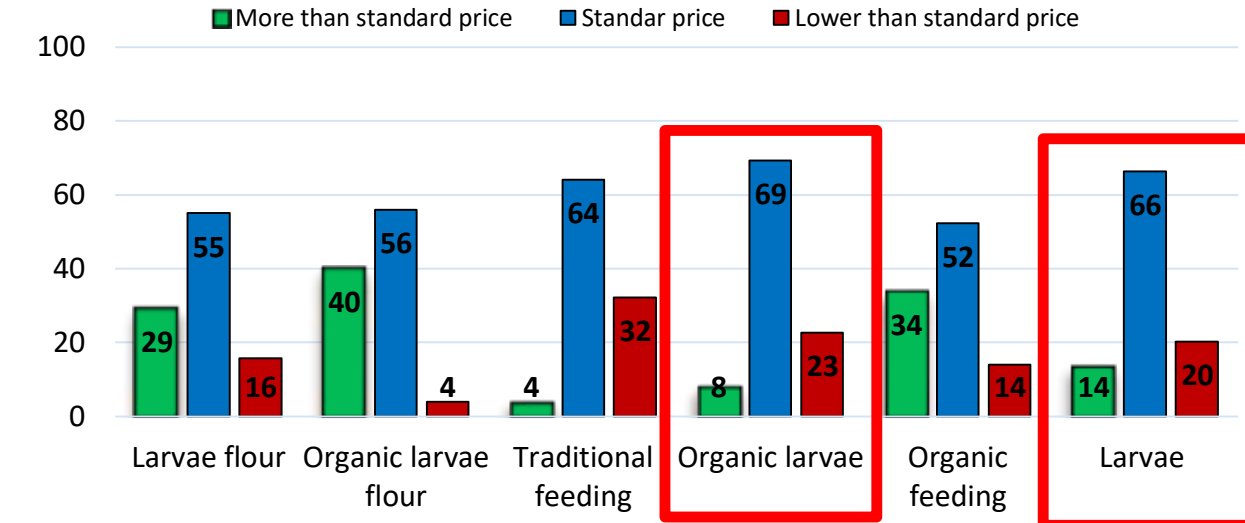
Total acceptance= 6.36



Willingness to buy

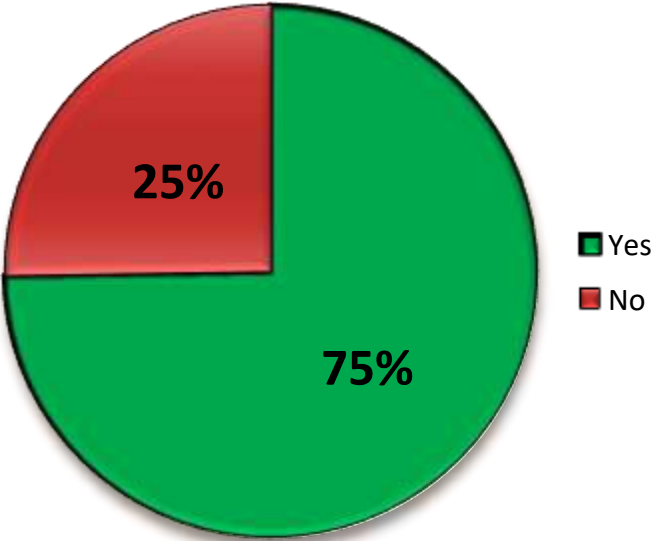


Willingness to pay

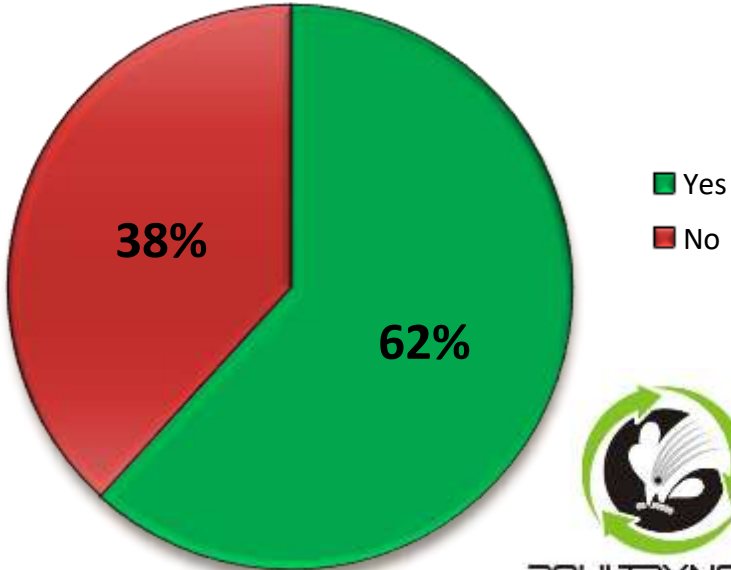


What could enhance the acceptance?

More label info



Quality certification



The use of live insect larvae to improve sustainability and animal welfare of organic chickens production



Final Symposium
Rome 27 October 2023





DIL overview

CORE organic

- Founded 1983
- Employees 200
- Locations Quakenbrück (GER),
Brussels (BEL),
Karlsruhe (GER),
Berlin (GER),
- Legal status registered association



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Our members



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Sustainability

CORE organic

The quality of being able to continue over a period of time

3 pillars of sustainability:

1. Environmental
2. Economical
3. Social



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Footprint Analysis

Life cycle assessment



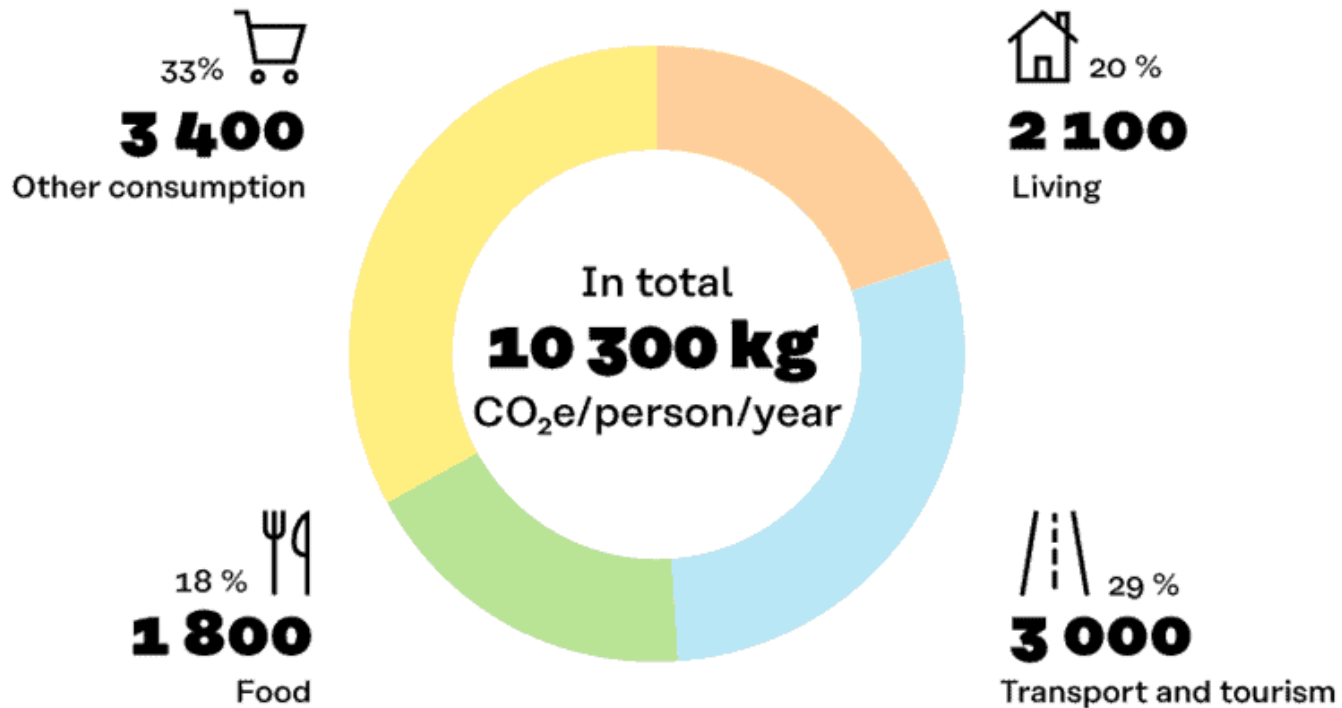
- Objective data about the sustainability of processes and products
- Identification of footprint hotspots within process chains
- Basis for process optimization and transparency



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Sustainability of food

CARBON FOOTPRINT OF THE AVERAGE FINN



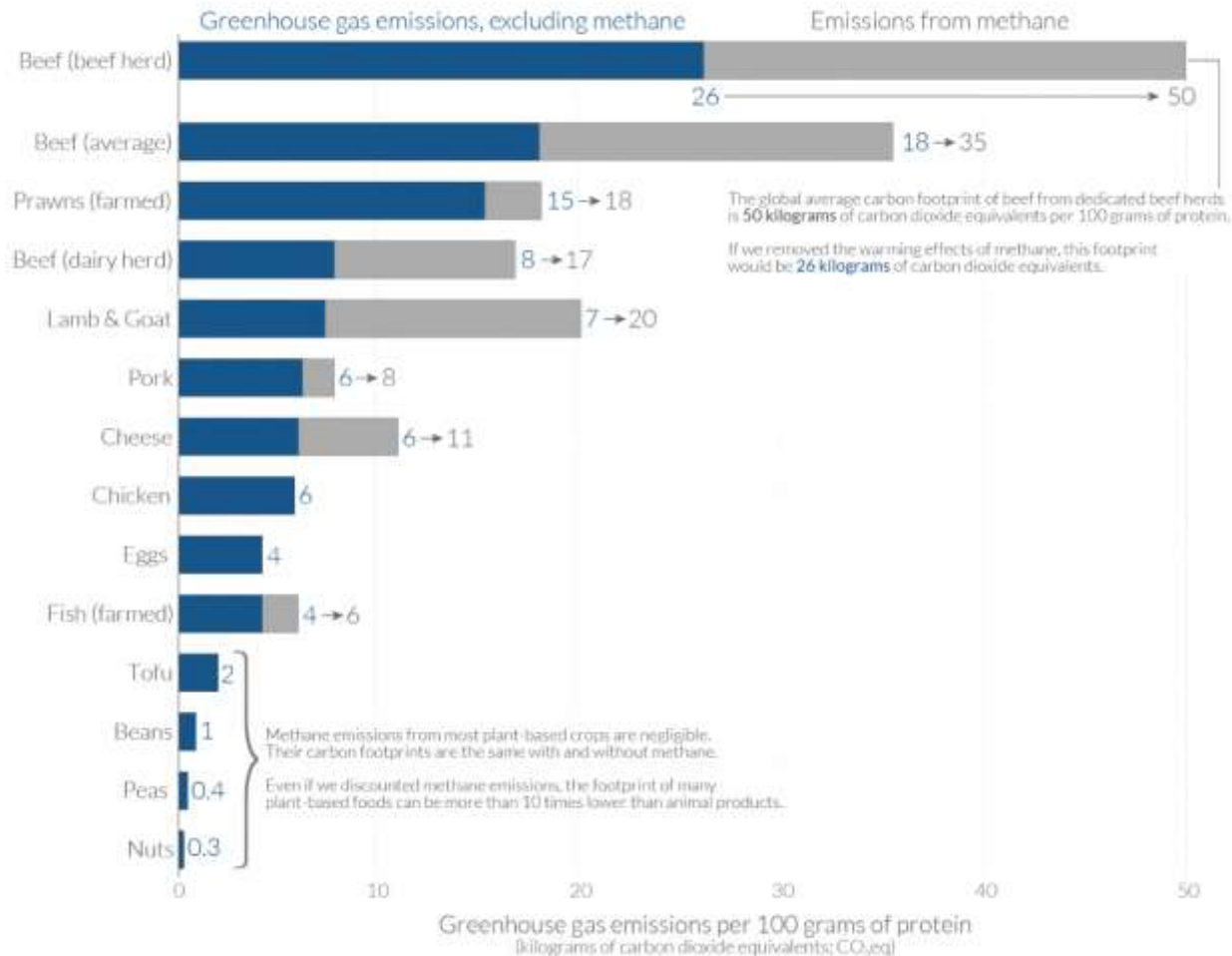
Sustainable protein



Greenhouse gas emissions from protein-rich foods, short vs. long-lived greenhouse gases



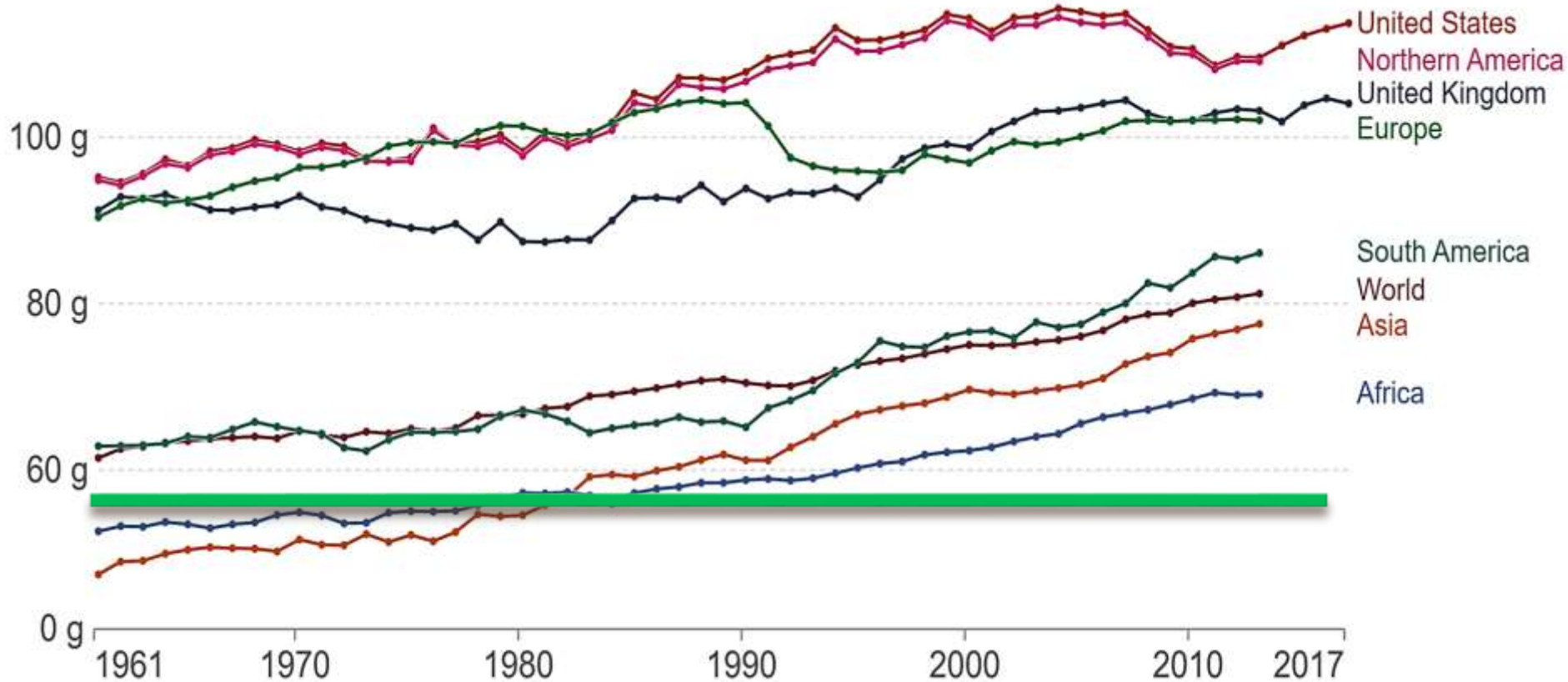
Greenhouse gas emissions are measured in carbon dioxide-equivalents (CO₂eq) based on their 100-year global warming potential (GWP). Global mean emissions for each food are shown with and without the inclusion of methane - a short-lived but potent greenhouse gas.



Note: Greenhouse gas emissions are given as global average values based on data across 38,700 commercially viable farms in 119 countries. Data source: Poore & Nemecek (2018), Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers. Science. OurWorldInData.org - Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems. Licensed under CC-BY by the authors Joseph Poore & Hannah Ritchie.



Daily protein supply



Requirements in proteins:

0.8 g kg⁻¹ body weight = 45-46 g to 55-56 g daily for adult women and men respectively (WHO, 2007)

Real consumption: In 2013 globally 81.3 g daily per capita





What are we hoping for

CORE organic

Change that can be accepted

1. Local chicken breed
2. High-quality meat
3. More sustainable



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Chicken or egg? Goal and scope



Environmental impact and efficiency of 2 types of chicken protein production

Estimate the amount of protein produced from feed providing 20t of protein

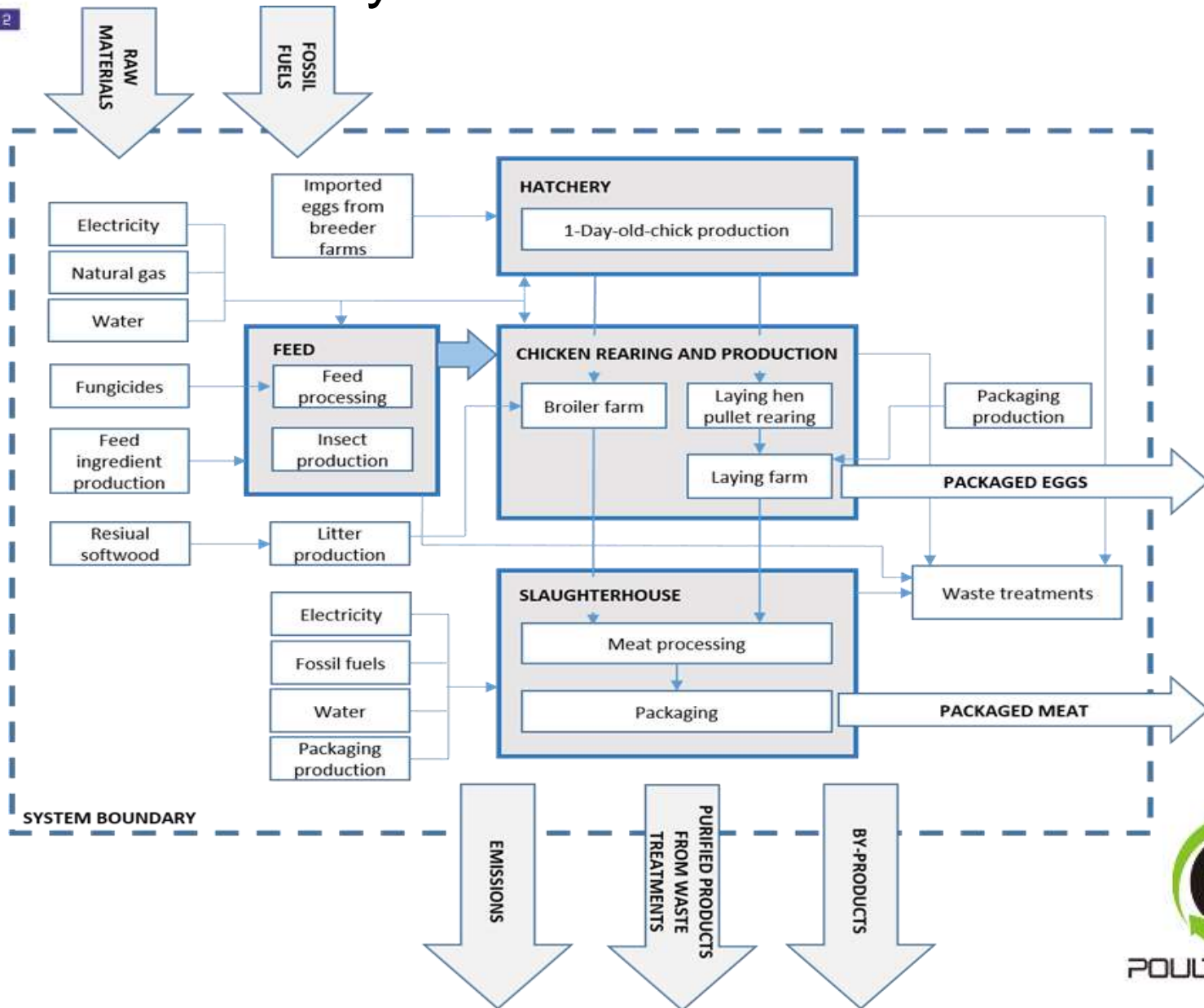
Further, it was hypothesized that environmental footprint of protein production can be lowered by inclusion of insects into the commercial feed

Insects were considered to be fed on 2 different diets



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System boundaries



Inventory analysis

The data were collected from the literature, mostly:

- 1) Dekker et al. (2011) (Netherlands) for laying hen production and
- 2) González-García et al. (2014) (Portugal) for broiler production

Calculations were done in SimaPro 8.5.2.0 (PRé Consultants, Netherlands)

Background data were taken from the ecoinvent 3 (ecoinvent, Switzerland) and Agri-footprint (Agri-footprint, Netherlands) database.

Adapted to the DIN EN ISO 14044:2006

Methodology - IMPACT 2002+

Two functional units:

- 1) Protein conversion ratio, FU1 – amount of chicken protein that can be produced with 20t of feed protein.
- 2) FU2 – estimation of production of 1 kg of chicken protein.



Protein produced

Scenarios		Commercial feed protein (t)	BSFL protein, fed with Gainesville diet (t)	BSFL protein, fed with fruit and vegetable waste (t)	Protein produced (kg)
A	Egg production	20			8,335.75
B	Egg production	18	2		
C	Egg production	18		2	
D	Broiler production	20			9,135.456
E	Broiler production	18	2		
F	Broiler production	18		2	

Protein conversion efficiency: 2.4 for laying hens and 2.24 for broilers.



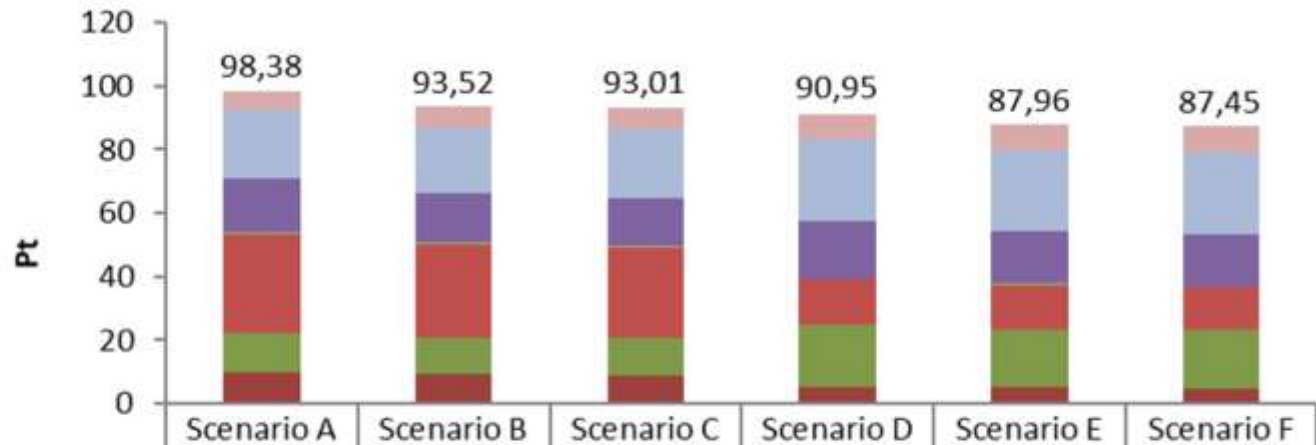
But not all protein is same...



- The quality of protein can be measured by Digestible Indispensable Amino Acid Score (DIAAS)
- Protein quality is determined by amino acid sequence and digestibility
- A DIAAS of 116.4% is given for the whole chicken egg and 108.2% for chicken meat and skin
- Protein conversion efficiency is therefore corrected to 2.06
- in laying hen production and to 2.07 in broiler chicken production.



LCA results

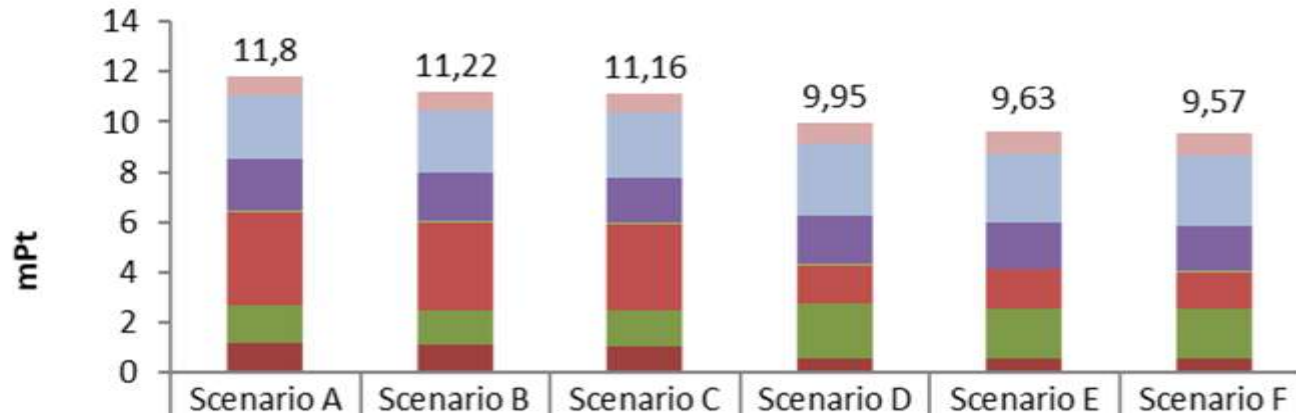


	Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C	Scenario D	Scenario E	Scenario F
Non-renewable energy	5.9358	6.325	6.7158	7.6382	8.117	8.5077
Global warming	21.6267	21.022	21.5076	26.0406	25.248	25.7337
Land occupation	16.804	15.6618	15.1724	17.7097	16.7596	16.2703
Terrestrial acid/nutri	0.5376	0.5084	0.4934	0.4345	0.4221	0.4071
Terrestrial ecotoxicity	31.2559	29.2303	28.6297	14.26	14.0222	13.4216
Respiratory inorganics	12.4206	11.6928	11.5668	19.6196	18.3642	18.2382
Non-carcinogens	9.4004	8.7037	8.5412	4.5695	4.3874	4.2249
Carcinogens	0.3966	0.3762	0.3853	0.6763	0.6412	0.6502

Comparing processes; FU1: use of 20 t of feed protein
 Method: IMPACT 2002+ V2.14 / IMPACT 2002+ / Single score



LCA results



	Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C	Scenario D	Scenario E	Scenario F
Non-renewable energy	0.712	0.7588	0.8057	0.8361	0.8885	0.9313
Global warming	2.5944	2.5219	2.5802	2.8505	2.7637	2.8169
Land occupation	2.0159	1.8789	1.8202	1.9386	1.8346	1.781
Terrestrial acid/nutri	0.0645	0.061	0.0592	0.0476	0.0462	0.0446
Terrestrial ecotoxicity	3.7496	3.5066	3.4346	1.5609	1.5349	1.4692
Respiratory inorganics	1.49	1.4027	1.3876	2.1476	2.0102	1.9964
Non-carcinogens	1.1277	1.0441	1.0246	0.5002	0.4803	0.4625
Carcinogens	0.0476	0.0451	0.0462	0.074	0.0702	0.0712

Comparing processes; FU2: 1 kg produced chicken protein
 Method: IMPACT 2002+ V2.14 / IMPACT 2002+ / Single score



Conclusions

- Laying hen production achieved higher single score results than broiler production
- The production of feed has by far the largest share of the environmental impact of the entire production
- Decrease of environmental impact due to the introduction of larvae:

Decrease in environmental impact achieved by introduction of HI larvae into the diet of:	Larvae fed on Gainesville diet	Larvae fed on fruit and vegetable waste
Laying hens	5%	5.50%
Broilers	3.30%	3.80%



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Eggs or meat? Environmental impact and efficiency assessment of chicken protein production with potential of *Hermetia illucens* use in feed

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ARTICLE INFO

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Laying hen
BSF
Life cycle assessment
Protein conversion efficiency
Insects in feed

ABSTRACT

This study presents a life cycle assessment (LCA) comparing laying hen to broiler chicken production. Sustainability and protein conversion efficiency are considered. The protein-to-protein conversion was calculated per 1 t of feed protein consumed by birds and per 1 kg of protein in end products for human consumption. Additionally, a part of the commercial feed was replaced by live black soldier fly larvae, reared on Gainesville diet, and fruit and vegetable waste (FVW). Results of the LCA showed significant differences in integrated impacts between different production systems and different chicken feeds but not between different insect feeds. The most environmentally friendly scenario is insect (FVW) fed broiler. In protein conversion efficiency (PCE) assessment, laying hen production achieved better PCE than broiler chicken when protein quality is considered. Main influencing factors on results were feed production, composition, and protein content. Due to many assumptions made, results should be viewed critically.

1. Introduction

The food sector is facing a challenging future. According to [UN DESA](https://www.un.org/development/desa/) (2019), the world's population is expected to rise from 7.7 billion people

In poultry farming, the feed production is especially climate-intensive. Above all feed processing requirements, the feed ingredient production has the most damaging effect on the environment ([Bengtsson and Seddon, 2013](#); [González-García et al., 2014](#); [López-Andrés et al.,](#)



Experimental setup

- The slow-growing Label Naked Neck chicken variety
- 2 experimental groups based on feed:
 - 1) reared on commercial organic feed with the inclusion of 10% *Hermetia Illucens* larvae into feed (BSFL)
 - 2) reared only on commercial organic feed.



Goal and scope

- Modular and attributional life cycle assessment (LCA) was developed to assure a structured and quantitative approach
- Experimental data collected from the project partners, partly extended by the background data and data from the literature
- Cradle-to-slaughterhouse gate perspective with further extensions to waste treatments, thus including feed production, larvae production, hatchery, poultry production, and slaughterhouse

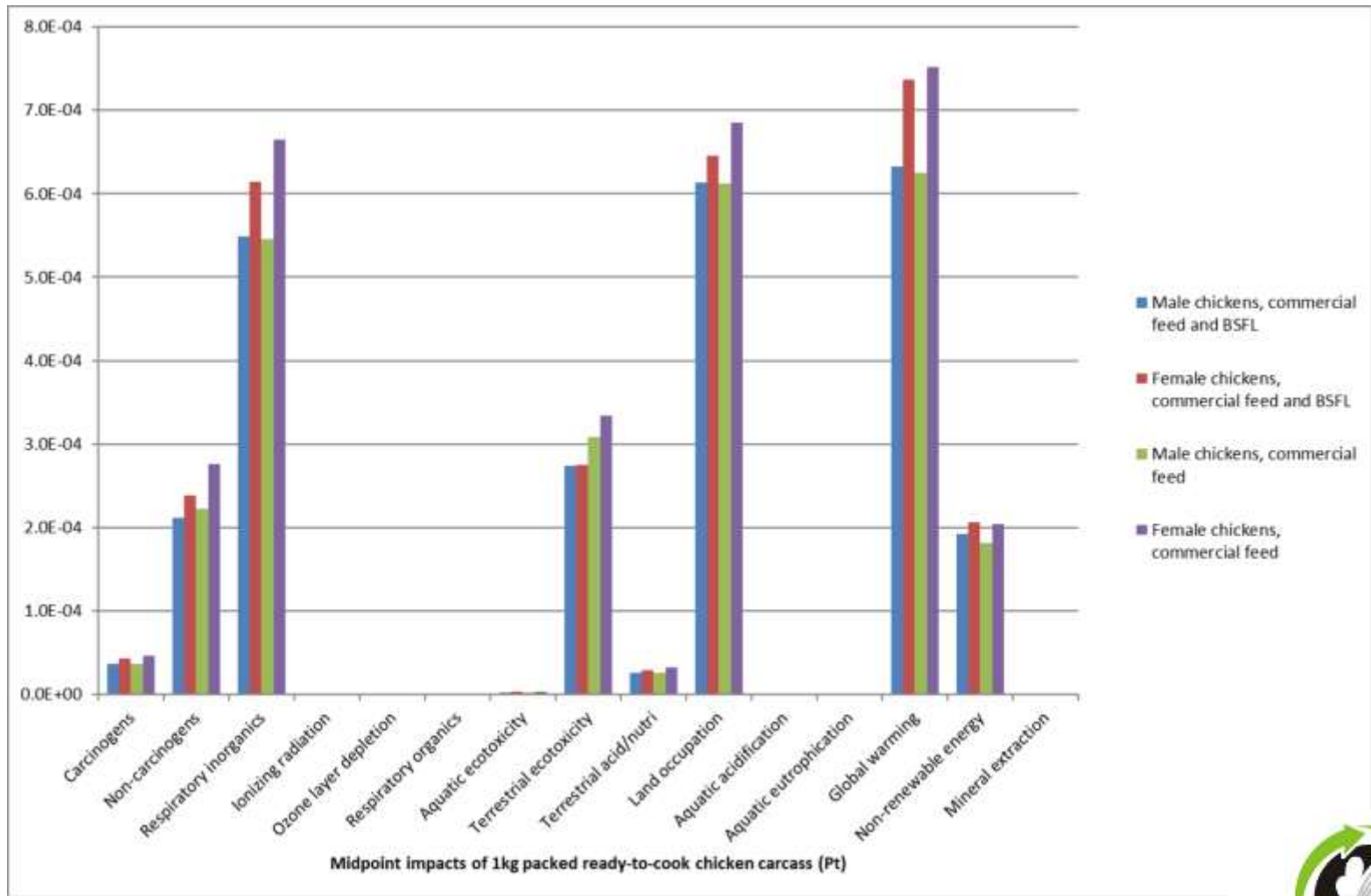


Inventory Analysis

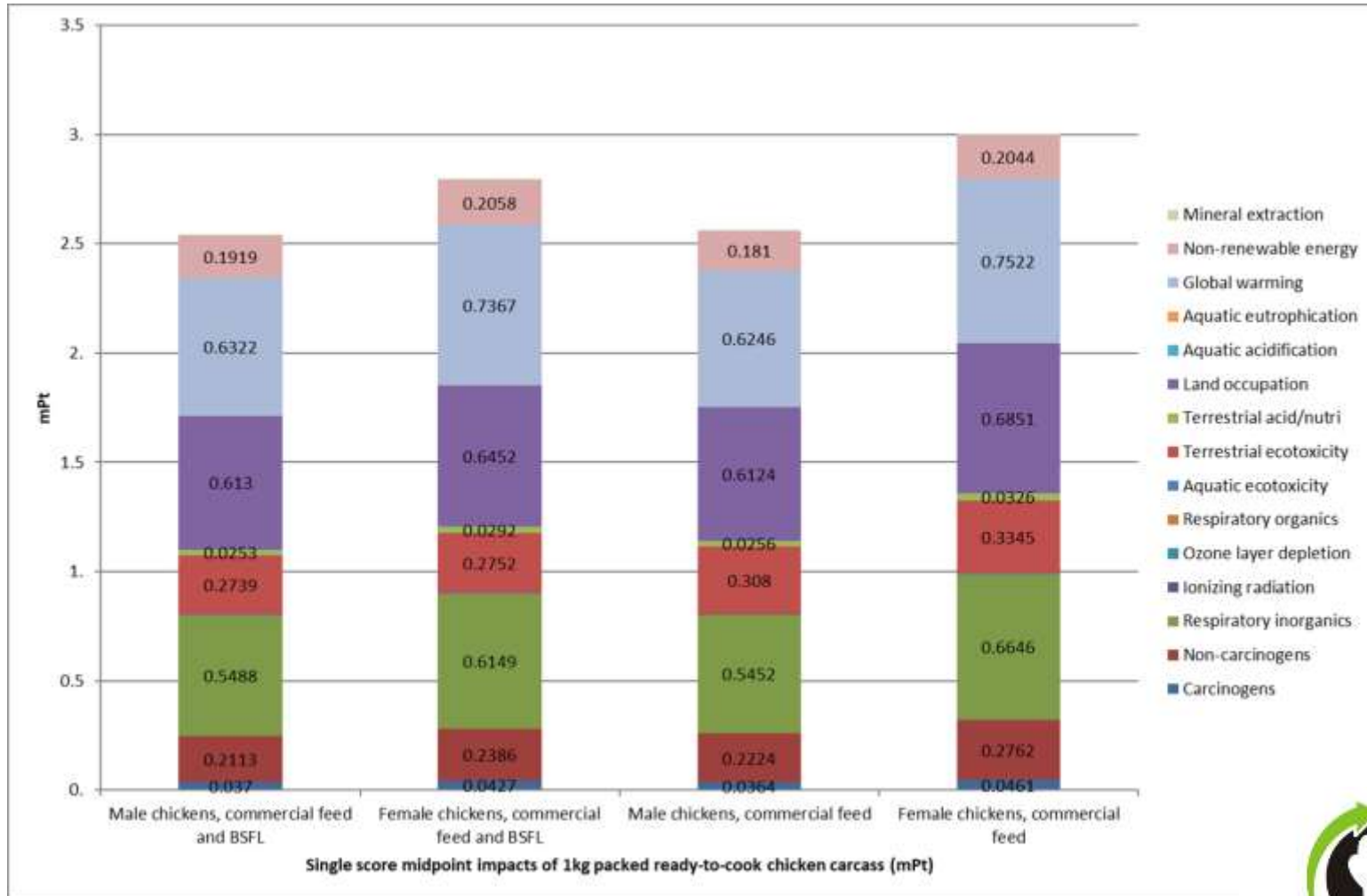
- The results are based on experimental data collected from the project partners, partly extended by the background data and data from the literature
- Calculations were done in SimaPro 8.5.2.0 (PRé Consultants, Netherlands)
- Background data were taken from the ecoinvent 3 (ecoinvent, Switzerland) and Agri-footprint (Agri-footprint, Netherlands) databases.
- Methodology - IMPACT 2002+
- 1kg of packed ready-to-cook chicken carcass was the functional unit



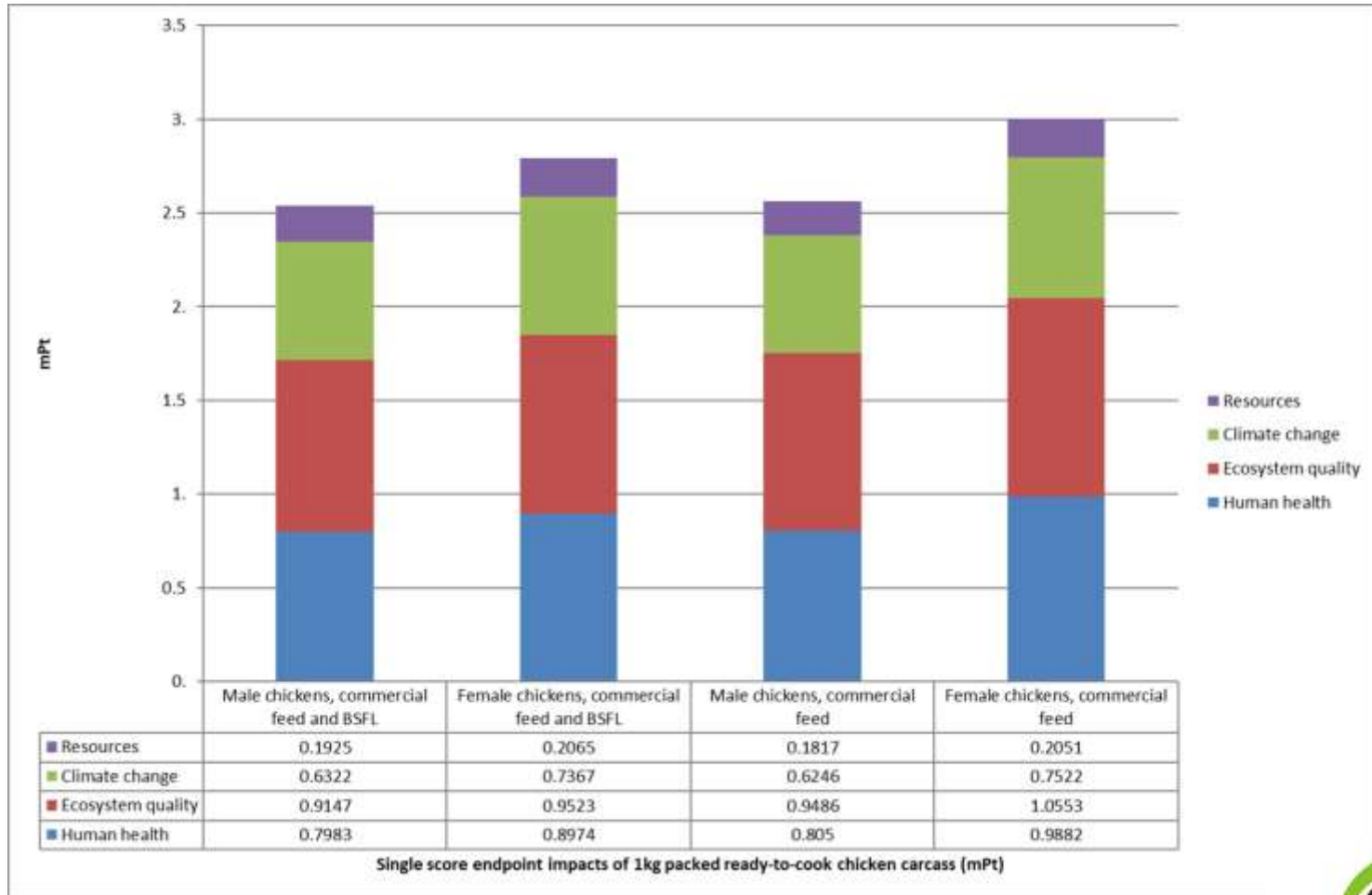
LCA results



LCA results



LCA results



Conclusions

- The inclusion of 10% of larvae into chicken feed did not lead to significant environmental gains
- The difference in impacts can be observed between the sexes
- Better results might be expected if insect feed were adjusted to overproduced fruits and vegetables, and if the portion of BSFL in broilers' diets were increased

Life Cycle Costing

- Life cycle costing is the process of compiling all costs incurred throughout a product's life cycle.
- Life Cycle Costing compares the economic efficiency and economic sustainability of products
- The system boundaries remained the same as for LCA





Life Cycle Costing



The modeled product was 1 kg of packed ready-to-cook chicken carcass

The profit of the bird-rearing company was not included in the analysis

Major changes in the market in the last two years

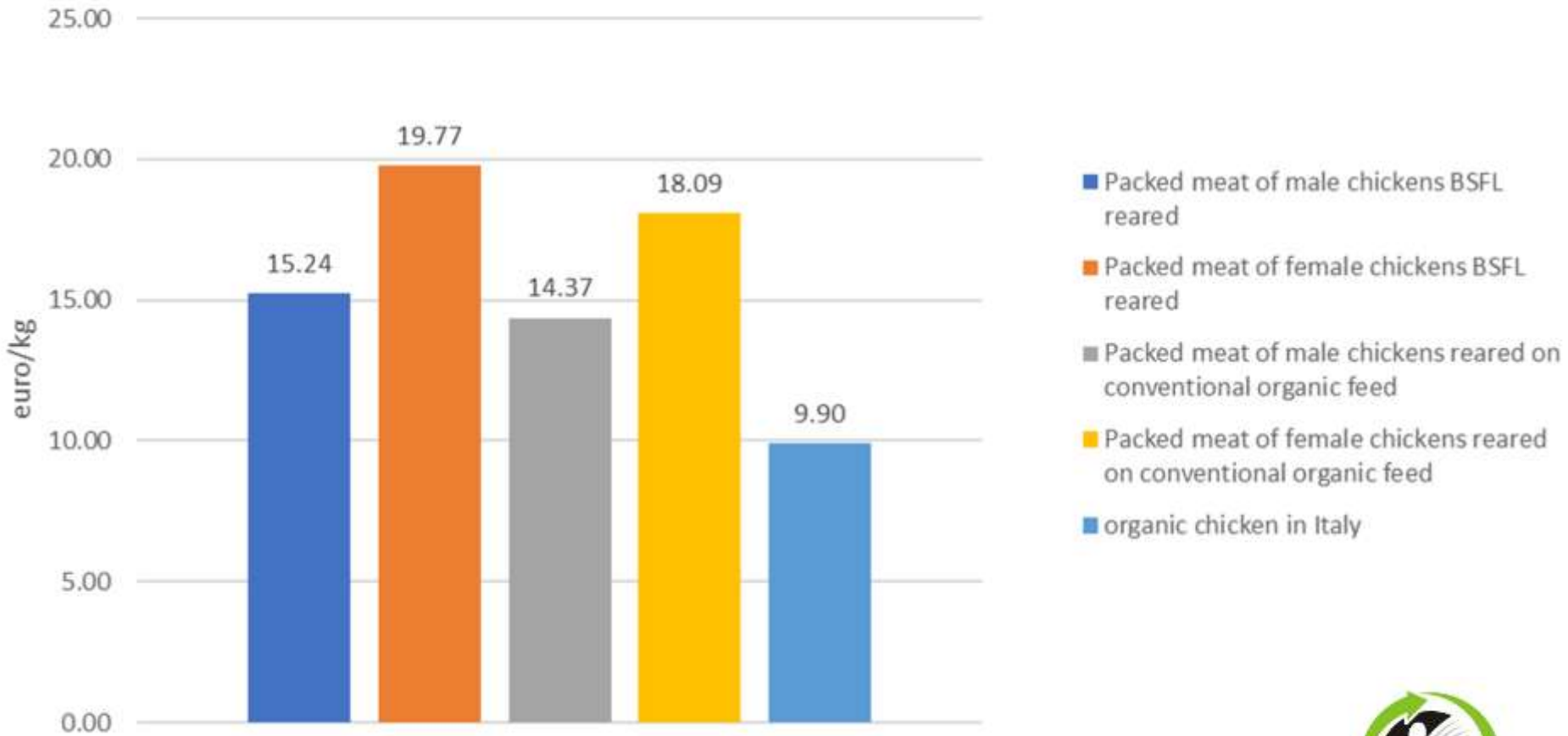
Availability and prices (particularly of feed and energy) kept changing

High inflation



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Organic chicken meat prices





Life Cycle Costing



20% cost difference between the sexes

Almost 10% cost increase with the addition of the BSFL

Highest contribution coming from labor (over 50%),
followed by the feed

Increase in scale might help



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SLCA What did we assess



Same modeled farm(s)

Due to the size of the farm, we focused on workers as the main stakeholders

Focus was on changes that can be expected with inclusion of insects (per example, slaughterhouse is excluded)



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Social

CORE organic

The starting relevant themes as well as the grading system were taken from Pelletier, N. (2018).

(<https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/10/5/1601>)

Fair wage potential was calculated per Neugebauer, S. et al. (2016).

(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959652616320340?via%3Dihub>)



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Social Assessment Matrix - Grading system

CORE organic

- 5 – Not assessed (questionable sources)
- 4 – Risky
- 3 – Compliant
- 2 – Proactive
- 1 – Committed



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Social Assessment Matrix



	insect farm		chicken farm			
	predominantly manual	automated	predominantly manual		automated	
			insects included	control	insects included	control
Health and Safety	3	2	3	2.5	2.5	2
Fair wage potential	2.42	2	2.42	2.42	2	2
Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining	small, likely family farm, and therefore not relevant					
Child Labour						
Working Hours	3	1	3	3	2	2
Equal opportunities/Discrimination	3	2	3	3	2	2
Forced Labour	3	1	no difference introduced by insects expected			
Social Benefits/Social Security	3	3				
overall	2.90	1.83	2.85	2.73	2.13	2





Social LCA, conclusions

CORE organic

Automation can improve social sustainability scores of both insect and chicken farming

The inclusion of insects into chicken feed represents an allergenicity risk



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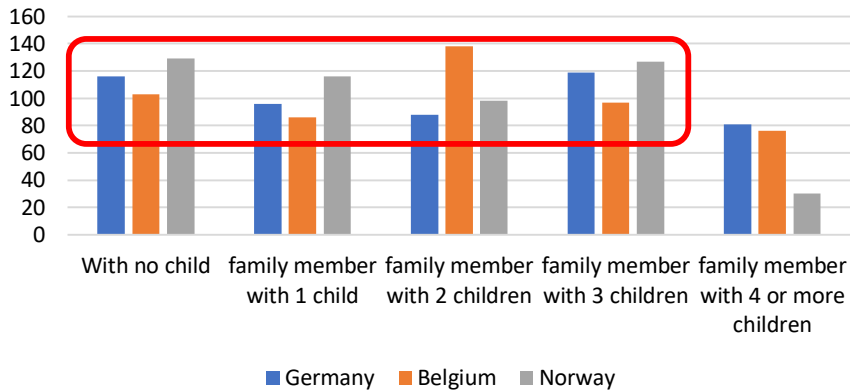
Consumer study

- In 2023 (July-September)
- Germany, Norway, Belgium (Italy)
- 500 respondents in each country
- Attitude to consuming poultry, organic poultry, organic poultry fed on insect larvae

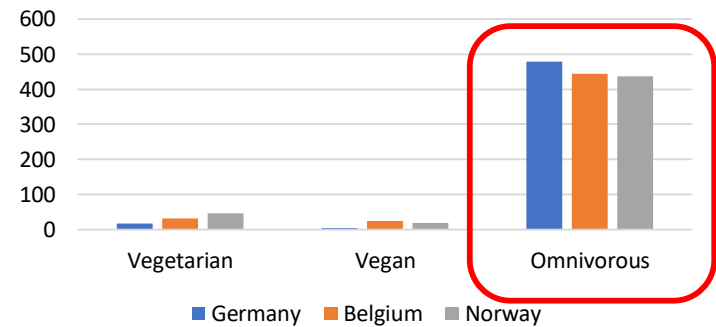


General information

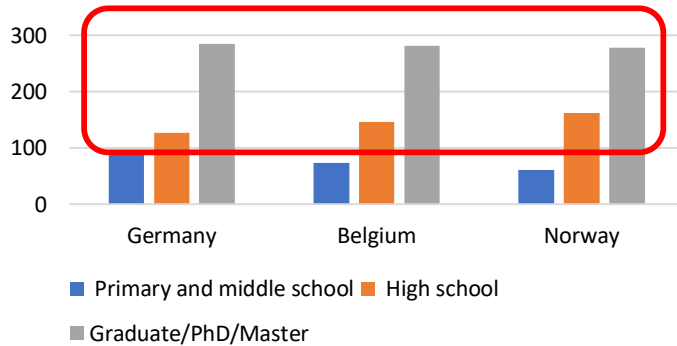
Household size



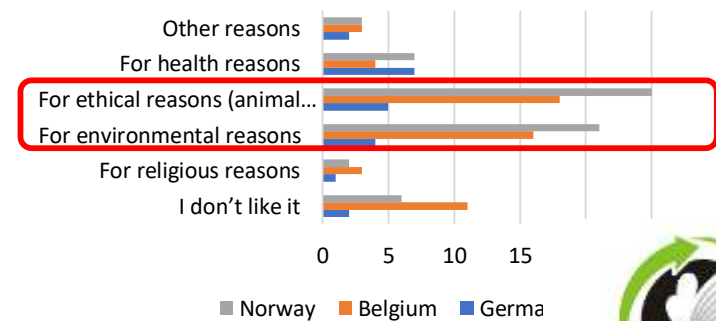
Food habits



Education level

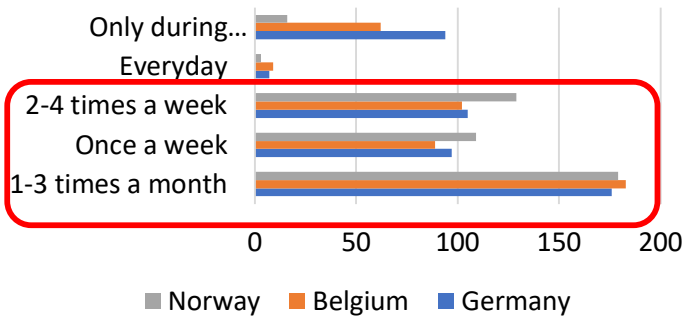


Reasons for not liking the poultry meat

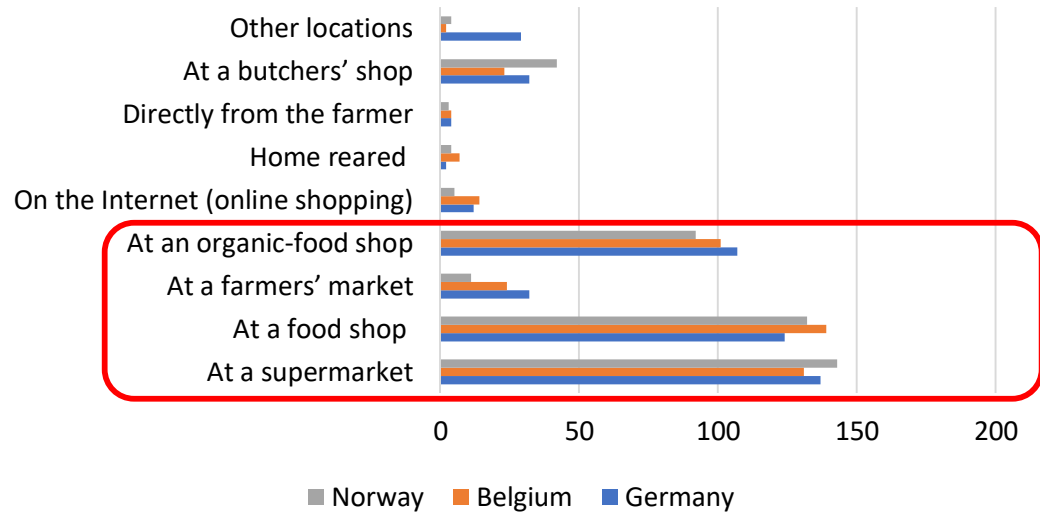


Relation to chicken meat and larvae

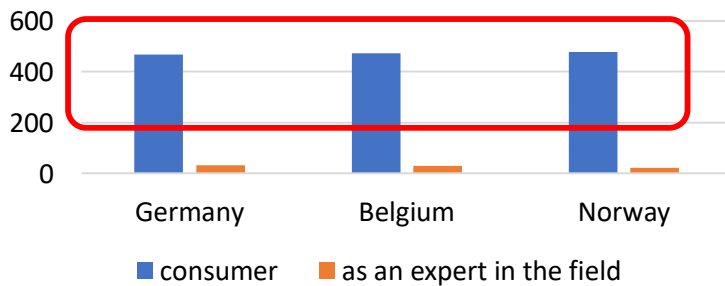
Average consumption of chicken



Place of poultry meat purchase

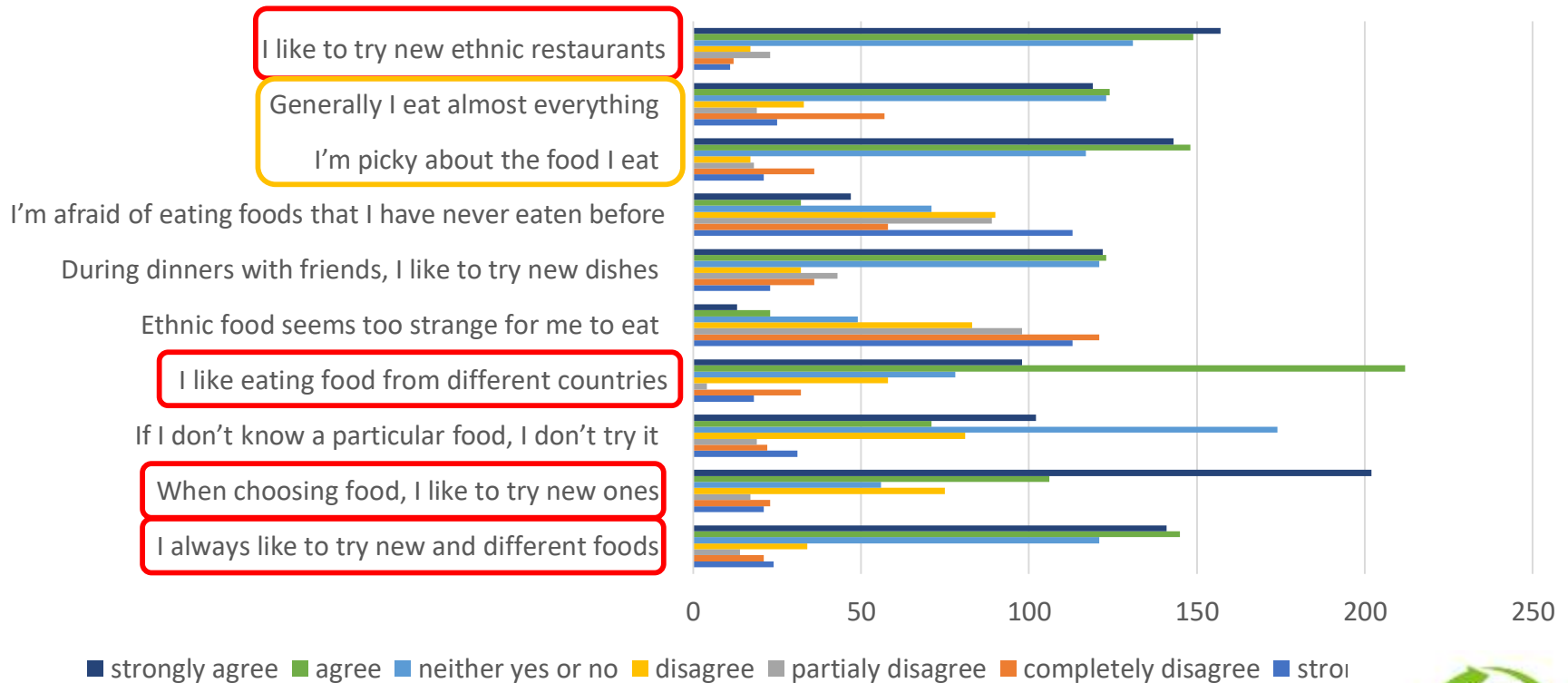


Knowledge on live larvae as poultry nutrition



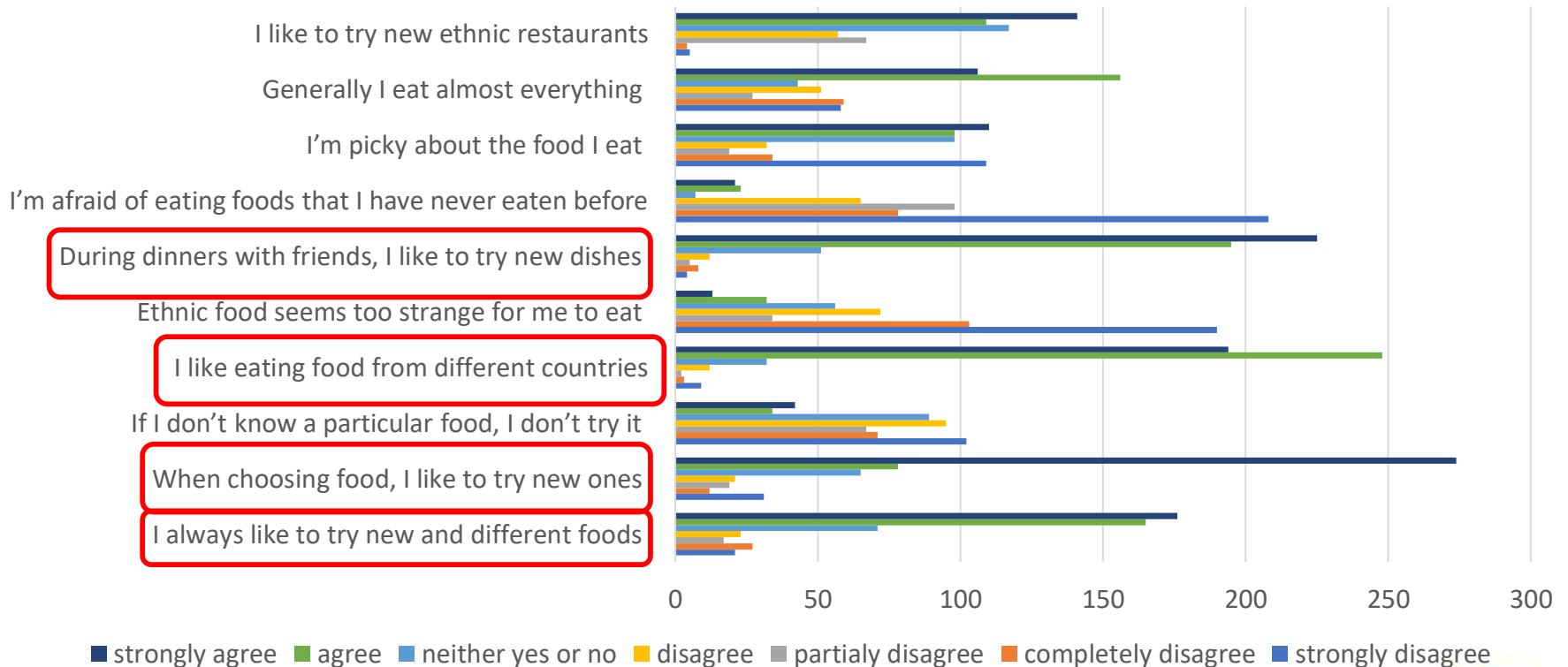
Consumers' consumption preference

Germany



Consumers' consumption preference

Belgium



Consumers' consumption preference

Norway

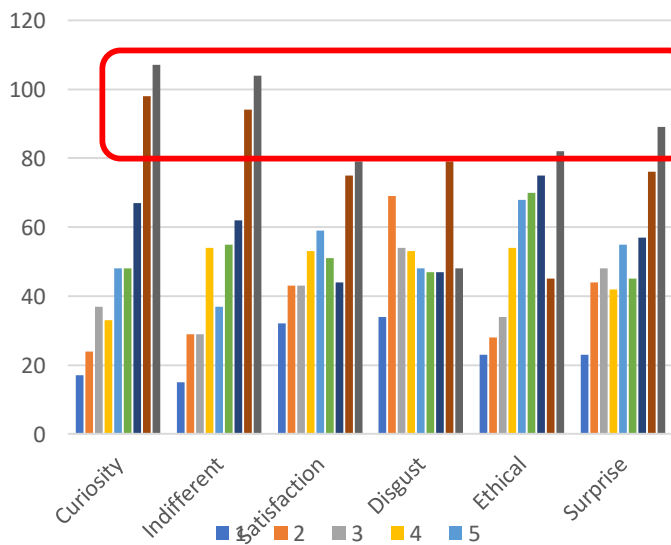


Reason for trying insect-fed poultry

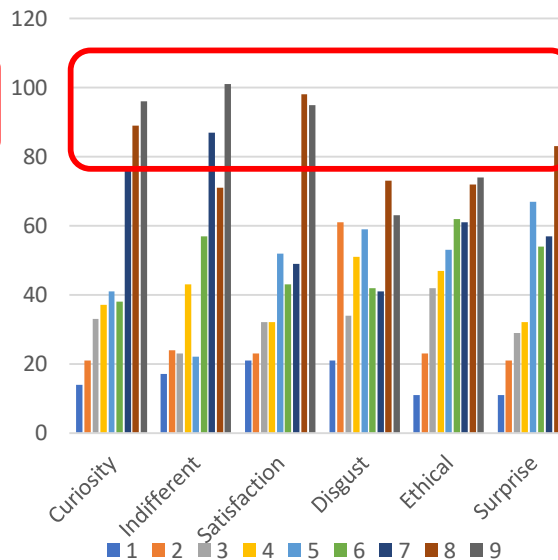
250

Germany

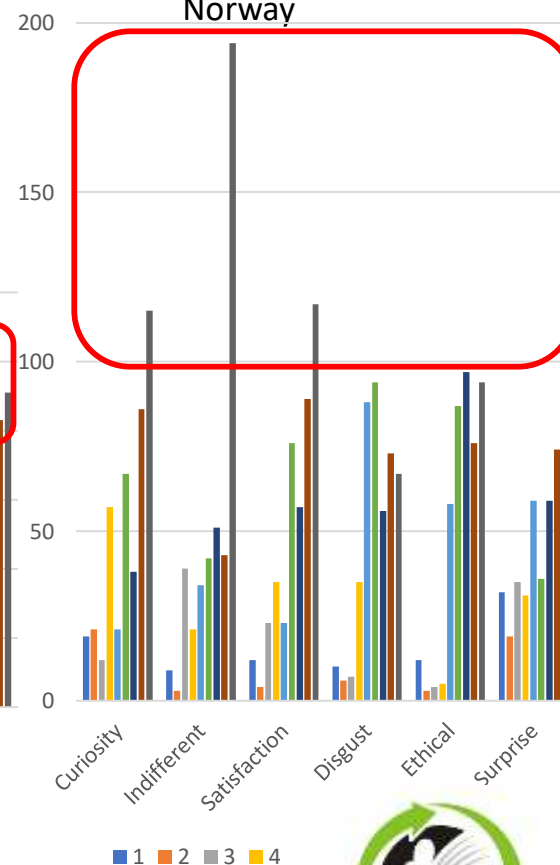
(1-highly disagree, 9-highly agree)



Belgium



Norway

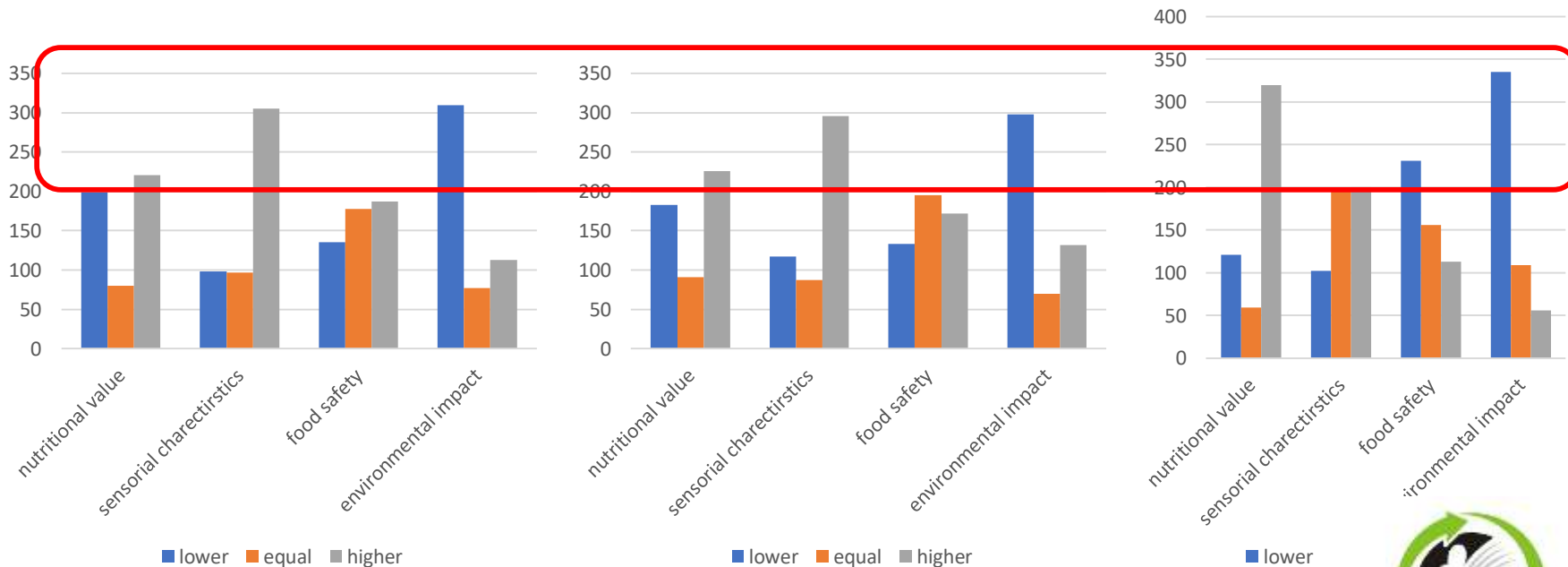


Opinion on impacts on nutrition, sensory, safety and environment due to larve-fed chickens

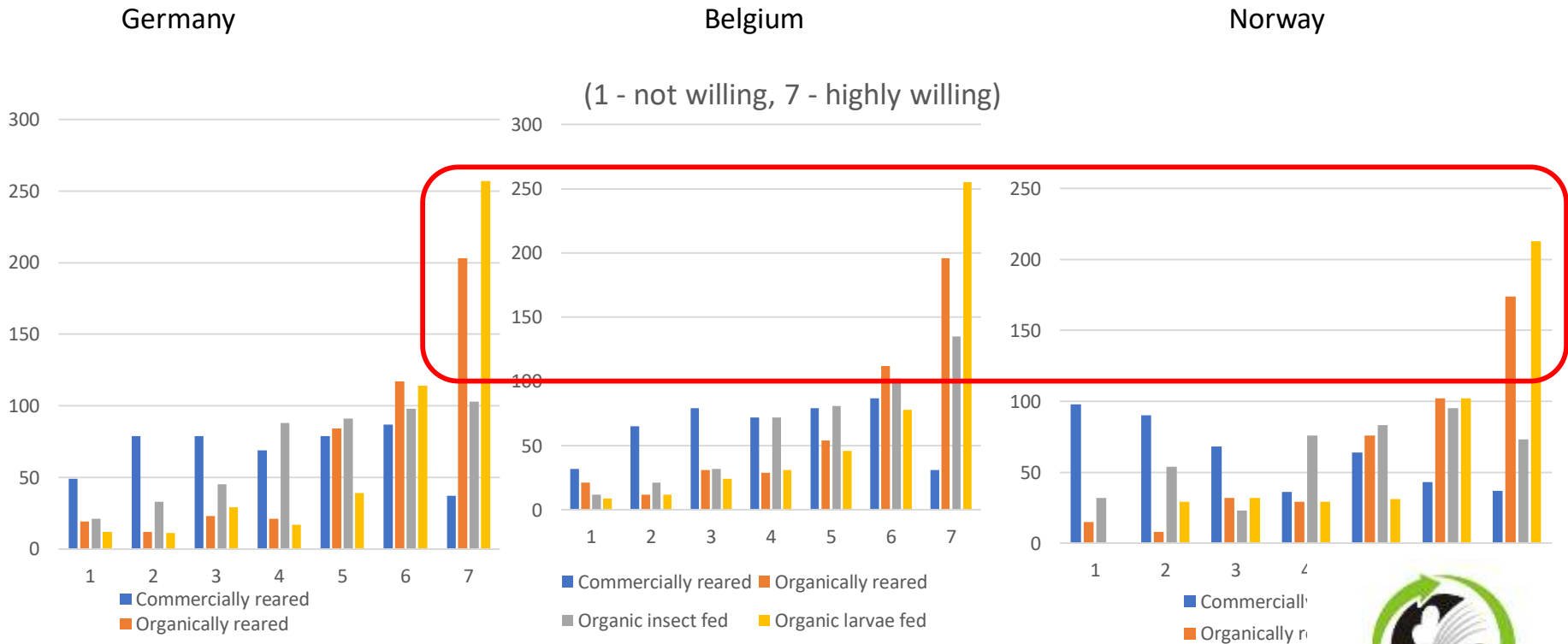
Germany

Belgium

Norway

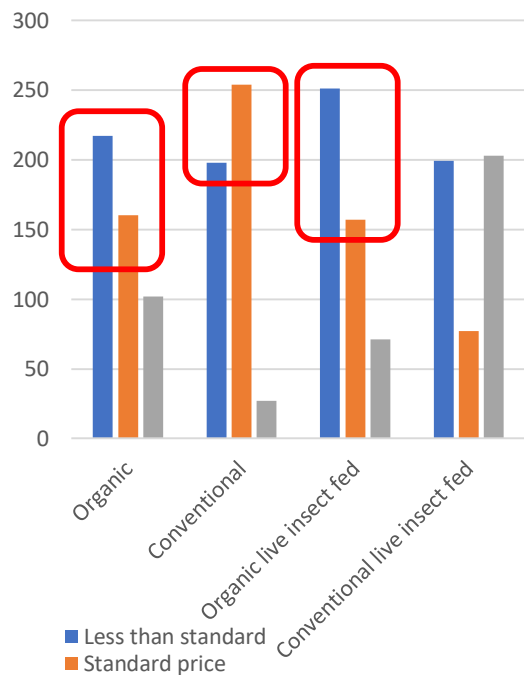


Willingness to purchase types of chicken

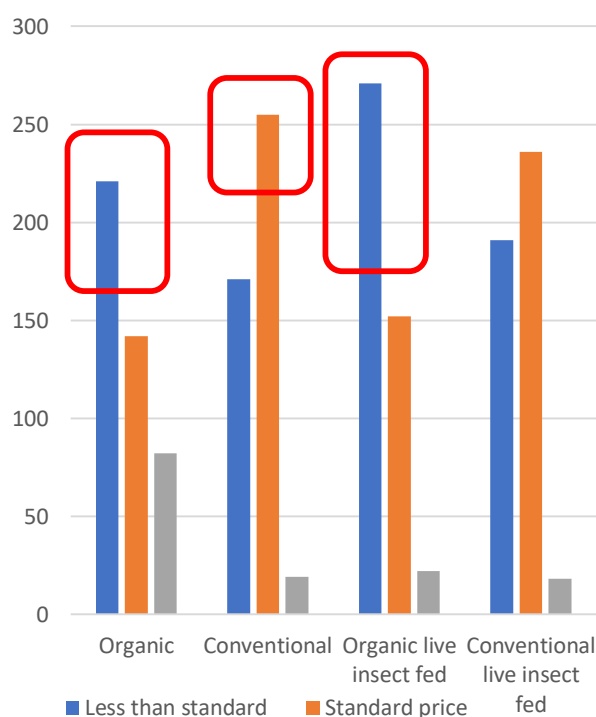


Willingness to pay for specific poultry meat

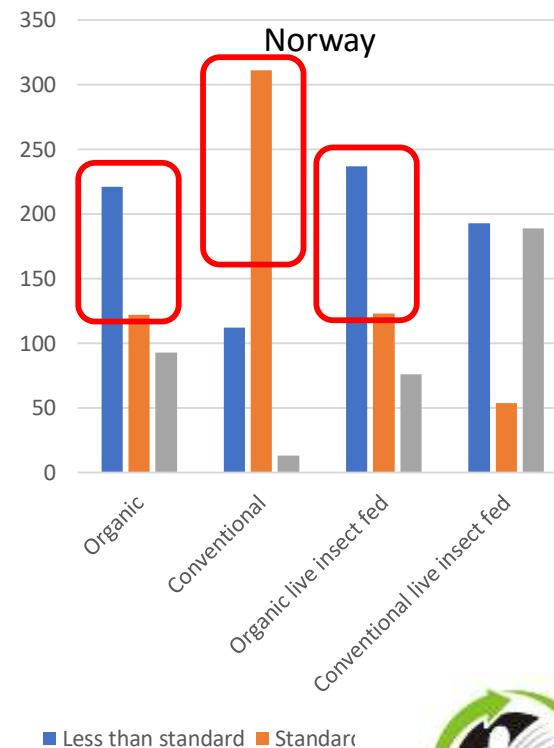
Germany



Belgium



Norway



Conclusions

- There are 2 main drivers for trying insect-fed poultry in Germany, which divided the population into those being **curious or being indifferent** towards new food. Norwegian people expressed much higher level of indifference towards poultry fed on insects, however, certain aspects of **curiosity and satisfaction from food is expected**. Belgium population is curious, indifferent, searching satisfaction and surprise at the same time.
- Insect-fed chicken **are expected to taste better and have lower environmental** impact in Germany and Belgium. Norway adds also high **expectations for the higher nutritional value**.
- In all three countries people responded to be **willing to purchase more organically reared chicken grown on larvae and organically reared chicken**. But lower willingness to buy organic insect fed chicken. Words have different negative value (insect vs larvae?). **Organic chicken meat and organic chicken meat fed with insects is expected to cost less than standard price**, while the price for the conventional meat is considered to be at satisfactory levels.



Combines single score LCA results, LCC production price results and Social LCA results

	chicken meat production							
	predominantly manual				automated			
	insects included		control		insects included		control	
	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
LCA	4.23	4.65	4.27	5.00	4.23	4.65	4.27	5.00
LCC	3.85	5.00	3.63	4.58	3.85	5.00	3.63	4.58
SLCA	2.85	2.85	2.73	2.73	2.13	2.13	2.00	2.00
Sum	10.94	12.51	10.63	12.30	10.21	11.78	9.90	11.58
overall grade	3.65	4.17	3.54	4.10	3.40	3.93	3.30	3.86
	3.91		3.82		3.66		3.58	





Integrated sustainability assessment



Combined LCA, LCC, and Social LCA results of the modeled farm indicate that the inclusion of insects did not increase overall sustainability

The influence of the sex of the chickens, or automation, proved to be greater than that of inclusion of insects



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