

## Meeting the growing demand for food through alternative proteins >>>



'Alternative protein' is a term used for a variety of protein derived from animal or plant cells, and encompasses a wide range of products made from plants, such as fungi and algae, to insects and lab-grown meat.

Compared to traditional proteins, alternative proteins require fewer natural resources such as arable land and water, while emitting fewer greenhouse gases, making them ideal in markets where water is scarce, such as the Middle East.

According to the UK's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs' food strategy, the alternative protein sector is estimated to be worth \$27 billion globally by 2027. This increased demand means that governments and businesses need to produce more protein sources for both human and animal consumption. The UK's capacity to drive innovation through its research facilities and its expertise in this area can help meet the burgeoning global demand, including in the Middle East.

## **UK alternative protein expertise for the Middle East**

## Sustainable Planet

Sustainable Planet has the goal of combatting food insecurity and climate change using agriculture technology. Their emphasis is on the use of water lentils to provide a more sustainable, economical plant protein. Water lentils do not require arable land and can survive in high salinity, which is highly advantageous in the Middle East. Impressively, their biomass doubles every 24 hours, and their climate mitigation effect is remarkable given that they produce vast quantities of oxygen. Water lentils also contain more nutritional value and protein than soybeans, peas, spirulina or chlorella. Sustainable Planet are currently establishing projects across the Middle East, creating thousands of jobs and helping the region become more food secure.

## Entocycle

Entocycle exists to accelerate the global transition to sustainable protein through insects, technology and innovation. Launched in 2017, the company's cutting-edge proprietary technology includes computer vision, automation and machine learning to enable efficient and scalable insect farming. Insects are a highly efficient protein, requiring far less land, water and development time than traditional protein sources.

Entocycle's flagship patent-protected product, Entosight™ Neo, is a machine vision hardware and software package designed to improve accuracy, efficiency and productivity in black soldier fly (BSF) farms in the Middle East and around the world. Alongside the Entosight™ Neo, Entocycle provides climate-controlled fly rooms to existing BSF farms and a full farm design and commissioning service for large food producers and waste producers entering the fast-growing insect industry.

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