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A Review on Insect Farming in China

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Abstract: Insect farming has gained increasing attention in China as a sustainable solution to growing food security challenges, organic waste management, and environmental degradation. This review synthesizes research published prior to 2019 to explore the development, species diversity, technological progress, environmental benefits, economic viability, and policy limitations of insect farming in China. Major insect species such as Tenebrio molitor, Hermetia illucens, Zophobas morio, and Bombyx mori are assessed in terms of their nutritional profiles, feed conversion efficiency, and applicability in food and feed systems. Pre-2019 literature also highlights significant advances in bioengineering, environmental control systems, and integration of insect-based organic fertilizers into circular agriculture. Despite these achievements, fragmented regulatory frameworks and limited consumer acceptance posed significant challenges to industry scaling. Nonetheless, early adoption of IoT and genomic tools indicated that China was preparing to emerge as a global leader in insect biotechnology. This review offers a baseline for understanding the evolution and future trajectory of insect farming in China at the close of the 2010s.

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