









A pilot plant to demonstrate the production of Black Soldier Fly (BSF), which can be used in Malawi for the production of very cheap but valuable animal protein, is part of the project "Ich liebe Fisch". Thus, two members of the team were visiting the largest BSF production plant in Germany (Hermetia in Baruth) for a training in spring 2020.







BSF is a universal soldier and naturally abundant in many places in Africa. This makes it easy, to establish a broodstock for artificial propagation. The picture shows a trap to attract wild females to deposit their eggs which can be subsquently collected for controlled rearing of the larvae.

BSF are about the size of wasps and are considered harmless; a great advantage is the way of life of the adult flies, which can no longer ingest food and therefore cannot be a vector for diseases and neither bite nor sting. In this stage, only mating and dispensing of eggs occur. The life span of adult flies is about 6-9 days.

Their breeding is easy, as the larvae tolerate a wide range of food and efficiently convert organic trash into biomass with a high protein and fat content. Under optimal conditions, about one kilo of maggots can be produced from two kilos of organic substrate.

The larvae also sanitize the substrates in the digestion process, a fact that represents an interesting added value in Africa from a hygienic point of view.







The local fish feed production in Malawi can benefit a lot from the addition of insect meal, which is high in protein. It can be a promising and affordable replacement of fishmeal and soy bean proteins. Since only organic garbage is the necessary substrate to grow BSF, even rural farmer will be able to produce maggots in order to improve significantly the quality of their local feeds. The "Ich liebe Fisch" project organizes training courses for the fish farmer to communicate the production of BSF maggots.









