



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



20 May
World Bee Day

BEE INSPIRED

by nature to nourish us all

GET INVOLVED



#WorldBeeDay
fao.org/world-bee-day

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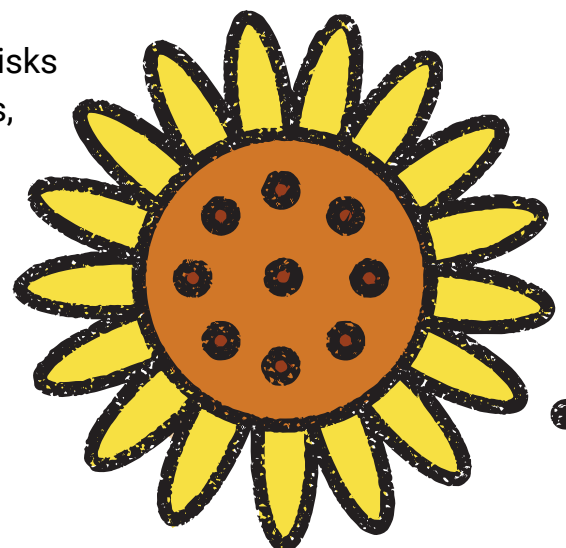


Get involved

Bees and other pollinators are essential to our existence. Thanks to the over 20 000 bee species and various other wild pollinators, plants that form the basis of our diets can be produced. Pollinators help agriculture and biodiversity to flourish. Yet, habitat loss and several unsustainable farming practices are threatening the health and survival of different species of pollinators.

The celebration of **World Bee Day on 20 May** presents an opportunity to step up our efforts to protect bees and other pollinators. By doing so, we can mitigate risks to food security and nutrition, agricultural livelihoods, biodiversity and the environment.

Let this guide inspire you to take action and be a part of the buzz!



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The theme for 2025

This year's theme "**Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all**" underscores the critical roles of bees and other pollinators in agrifood systems and the health of our planet's ecosystems.

From bees and butterflies to birds and bats, pollinators are the lifeline of agrifood systems, ensuring the reproduction of crops and wild plants alike. They are essential to the production of over 75 percent of crops globally, including fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds. In fact, pollination increases not only the quantity, but also the quality and diversity of our food. Nature provides us with a remarkable blueprint for sustainability, and nowhere is this more evident than in the delicate balance between pollinators and their ecosystems. Bees are more than just pollinators – they are indicators of environmental health. Their behaviour and population trends offer insights into the climate and ecosystems.

Yet, bees and other pollinators are under threat due to habitat destruction, unsustainable farming practices and climate change.

Agroecological practices such as intercropping, integrated pest management, and agroforestry are some of the means to address these constraints. The integration of these practices as along with several others that are pollinator-friendly, into land management strategies, helps pollinators thrive, ensuring consistent crop yields and reducing the risk of food shortages.

Initiatives to protect pollinators are being implemented worldwide, with countries like Slovenia and Ethiopia, for instance, developing and implementing innovative policies and grassroots initiatives. Slovenia has designated large areas of land for conservation, introduced bee-friendly agricultural practices, and launched educational campaigns such as interactive "Bee Paths" in urban areas. Similarly, Ethiopia is revitalizing traditional conservation methods, investing in sustainable beekeeping, and restoring ecosystems through its ambitious Green Legacy Initiative, which has planted billions of trees to provide food and shelter for pollinators.



Bee innovators

In general, deliberate efforts to protect pollinators ultimately foster the conservation of other components of biodiversity, which enhances ecosystem services like pest control, soil fertility and air and water regulation.

Adopting a holistic approach that ensures the long-term co-existence of agricultural practices for the production of food, fibre and fuel on one hand and the protection of natural ecosystems on the other is needed for sustainable agrifood systems.



Promoting agri-environmental measures in Slovenia

Through the country's Rural Development Programme, Slovenia promotes farming practices that protect human health, ensure sustainable use of natural resources, and preserve biodiversity. These include initiatives like sowing summer crops that provide continuous flowering resources for honeybees, thereby increasing their resilience over winter. Additionally, projects such as “**Pollinators for fruit growers and fruit growers for pollinators**” aim to improve knowledge transfer about wild pollinators in fruit growing and establish good practices for their protection in orchards.



Championing pollinator conservation through traditional knowledge and sustainable farming in Ethiopia

In southwestern Ethiopia, local communities preserve forests, practice organic farming, and maintain diverse home gardens, fostering habitats for pollinators while boosting food security and nutrition and income generation, for instance through organic honey and coffee production. Agroecological initiatives, such as the “**More Bees**” project in Amhara, promote alternative pest management and pollinator-friendly beekeeping, equipping farmers with eco-friendly practices that enhance crop yields and support pollinator health.



Elevating apiculture as a national priority in Peru

Peru is positioning apiculture as a key sector for agricultural sustainability and economic resilience. The Ministry of Agricultural Development and Irrigation is developing a National Plan for Apiculture Development to support beekeeping and pollination services. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Environment has established a National Committee to coordinate Peru's role in Poli-LAC, a regional initiative for pollinator protection. With nearly 40 percent of Peru's crops dependent on pollinators, these efforts highlight apiculture's strategic importance for the country's future.



Integrating pollinator protection into policies in the Philippines

The Philippines has implemented environmental conservation and sustainable agricultural development policies and initiatives to protect bees and other pollinators, recognizing their importance in maintaining biodiversity and supporting food production. The government promotes sustainable beekeeping, particularly using native stingless bees, to enhance crop yields and provide livelihood opportunities. The Philippine Forest Honey Network protects indigenous forest-based communities engaged in traditional honey harvesting. This initiative aims to promote pure forest honey and support the livelihoods of these communities. Research institutions, such as the University of the Philippines Los Baños, have developed beekeeping technologies utilizing native stingless bees, known locally as "kiwot." These bees have been shown to significantly improve coconut yields, with studies indicating potential increases of up to 80 percent.

For more information, please visit the [Global Action on Pollination Services for Sustainable Agriculture website](#)





Pollinators and the 2030 Agenda

While pollinators are not mentioned explicitly in the text of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), their sustainable management contributes directly to the achievements of SDGs 1, 2 and 15.



SDG 1: No poverty

Many rural communities, particularly in developing regions, rely on pollination-dependent crops for their income. Pollinators enhance agricultural productivity, which boosts the economic resilience of smallholder farmers. Pollinators can also play an important role in alleviating poverty through their role in diversification of income streams through beekeeping and the provision of high value crops.



SDG 2: Zero hunger

Pollinators play a key role in the production of cultivated and wild food plants which are crucial for combating hunger and malnutrition. Therefore, a thriving pollinators population is critically important for the efforts to ensure food security and nutrition for all.



SDG 15: Life on land

Pollinators are necessary for maintaining biodiversity, as they facilitate the reproduction of a vast array of plants. Protecting and restoring pollinator habitats therefore leads to thriving biodiverse terrestrial ecosystems.

Pollinators can also indirectly contribute to several other SDGs such as SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (Climate action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). By safeguarding pollinators and their habitats, we can create synergies across multiple SDGs, ensuring a sustainable future for both people and the planet.

Facts about bees and pollinators



Besides *Apis Mellifera*, there are other 11 known honeybees species and hundreds of stingless bees. In many cases, these bees have spiritual and cultural significance, medicinal purposes or are used as environmental indicators.

Around 10 percent of the total economic value of agricultural output for human food is dependent on insect pollination.



Over 200 000 species of animals are pollinators; the vast majority of them are wild and include more than 20 000 species of bees.



Pollination enables the production of an abundance of diverse and nutritious fruits, vegetables, and nut species.

Pollinators such as bees, birds and bats, pollinate 87 leading food crops worldwide.

About three quarters of the food we eat depend, at least in part, on pollinators.



Protecting bees and other pollinators is one of the pillars of the transformative change needed for agroecological transitions and sustainable agriculture.

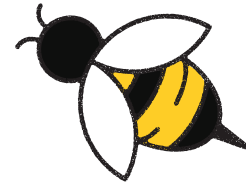
Almost 90 percent of the world's flowering wild plants (approximately 308 000 species) depend, to varying degrees, on pollinators for their reproduction.

PRODUCING MORE WITH LESS

Pollinators play a crucial role in helping plants to produce more with less. By transferring pollen within and between flowers, they increase the efficiency of plant reproduction, leading to higher yields of fruits, vegetables and nuts. This natural process boosts crop productivity without the need for additional land, water or synthetic inputs. In essence, pollinators enable farmers to grow more food on the same amount of land while conserving resources and maintaining biodiversity. Improving the wellbeing of pollinators is therefore a sustainable way to produce more food with less environmental footprint.



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Call to action

Now is the time to think about nature and take action to protect pollinators!
Join the buzz for World Bee Day 2025!

All of us

Learn more

Observe the **different types of bees** and other pollinators in your area.

Understand their **habitats** and needs for survival.

Plant pollinator-friendly gardens and create bee habitats

Choose **native plants and attractive crops**, including flowers that bloom at different times of the year, so that they provide food for bees and other pollinators.

Set up bee houses or **nesting sites** for solitary bees, create **hedgerows** and leave some space for bees and other pollinators to nest on and under the ground.

Help these tiny miracle workers by **reducing the frequency of lawn mowing**.

Support local beekeepers

Learn more about **beekeeping** and **local bee products** (e.g. honey, pollen, wax, propolis).

Buy honey and other bee products from local beekeepers and gatherers.

Protect bees and other pollinators

Reduce the use of, or find **safer alternatives** to, harmful **chemicals**.

Avoid the **introduction of exotic bees** to new landscapes and raise public awareness about the risks of such introduction to local ecosystems.

Governments

Develop and implement **national strategies, policies and action plans** to protect and enhance pollinator populations and institute risk assessment and mitigation measures.

Promote **sustainable practices** – such as crop diversification, integrated pest management, agroforestry – which enable bees and pollinators to thrive and thereby continue providing essential ecosystem services.



Food business operators

Enhance the sustainability of agricultural production and meet the increasing demand for sustainable and environmentally responsible products through **supply chain transparency, investments in research and innovation**, engagement with farmers, and collaboration with governments and non-governmental organizations.

Prioritize **pollinator health** when sourcing food products; for instance, rely on farmers practicing sustainable agriculture or pollinator friendly production methods.

Civil society organizations

Facilitate dialogue, knowledge sharing and **collaboration** among all relevant actors.

Strengthen efforts like **capacity building, monitoring, surveillance** and **reporting** on pollinator populations, to better guide conservation actions.

Advocate for policies that **empower Indigenous Peoples** to protect pollinators and preserve biodiversity in general.

Research and scientific community

Work together with all relevant actors, to advance research on **pollinator monitoring**.

Foster **research** and **innovative solutions** to address key challenges to sustainable beekeeping and pollinator well-being.

Encourage **Indigenous Peoples-led research** and ensure they retain full rights and ownership of their **knowledge** on pollinators when they contribute to research.

Urban dwellers and beekeepers

Raise **awareness** about how pollinators are essential for the food we eat, the gardens we enjoy, and the ecosystems that sustain our cities.

Encourage **youth** to learn about the roles of bees, butterflies and other pollinators in the environment and agrifood systems.

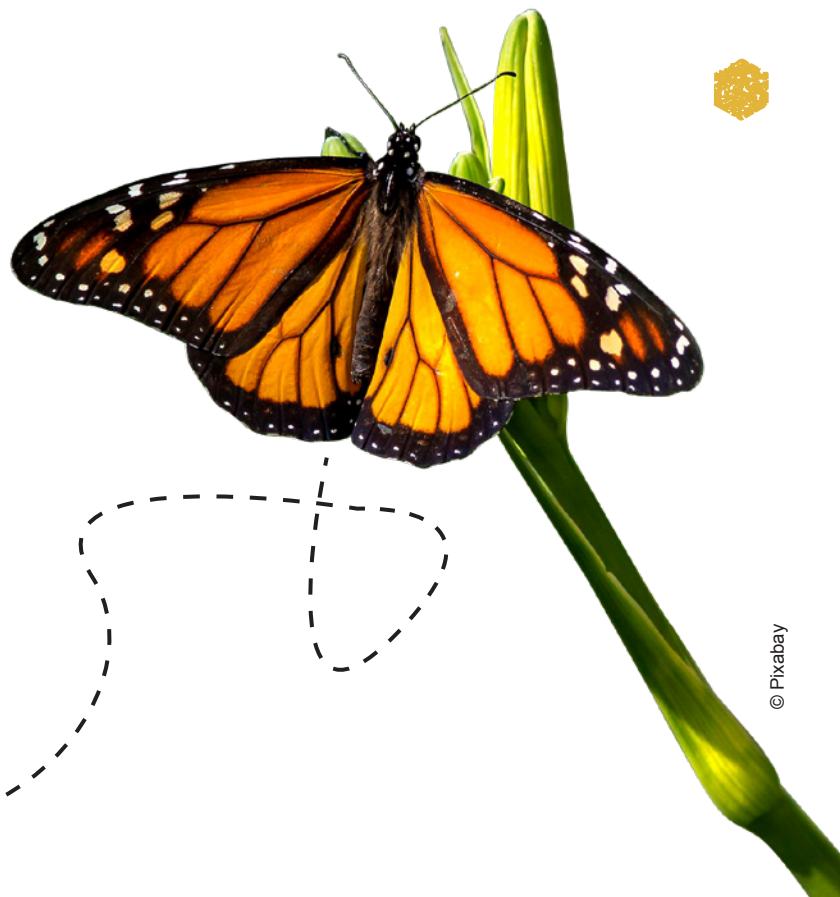
Turn gardens, balconies and terraces into **pollinator havens** by planting native, pollinator-friendly plants.

Youth

Form or join a **group** that engages in pollinator conservation in your community.

Enrol in **mentorship programmes** and seek guidance from experienced beekeepers to learn more about sustainable beekeeping practices.

Encourage your **friends and families** to help support pollinators.



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How to participate

Get involved in one of the following ways and encourage your network to do so!

Organize a World Bee Day event

From online discussions to interactive workshops, public lectures or even quiz night, there are countless ways to celebrate and advocate for bees and other pollinators.

Parks and gardens

Many of the plants and trees in the beautiful parks and gardens around the world would not exist without pollinators, making them an ideal venue for World Bee Day. Have a picnic, plant flowers or capture some buzz-worthy moments.

Honey tasting

Can you tell the difference between honeys produced by bees that 'visited' different plants? Try new types of honeys or meet up with friends to have a sweet break.

Post a picture

Celebrate World Bee Day by sharing photos of bees or pollinator-friendly actions on social media using the hashtag **#WorldBeeDay**. Take it a step further by using our AR filter on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to create fun and engaging posts, showing your support for pollinators.

Community or school garden

Start or join a community or school garden to give local residents or young people a chance to learn by doing. Adopt ecosystem friendly practices, such as enhanced plant or crop diversity and integrated pest management. Eat what you harvest.

Improve your knowledge

[FAO's Global Action on Pollination Services for Sustainable Agriculture](#) has videos, publications, databases and details about initiatives related to bees and pollinators. Visit the [Agroecology Knowledge Hub](#) to learn more about agroecological approaches that protect pollinators and their habitats.

Spread the word

Inform, educate and engage. Join the **#WorldBeeDay** campaign by sharing our free material with your network.





Communication materials

Check the [FAO Digital Media Hub](#) or [Trello](#) for World Bee Day materials that can be downloaded and shared with your network.

[#WorldBeeDay](#)
[#Savethebees](#)

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world-bee-day@fao.org
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