

The new CAP will need to address the challenges related to the decline of pollinators in Europe

CAP & Pollinators
Pillar 1





Public funds need to support basic ecosystem services and improve agro-environmental conditions



The EU Green Deal and its strategies require effective policies to achieve a real and just green transition

# **Pollinator ECO-SCHEME**

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The Pollinator Eco-Scheme is a proposal for the future Common Agricultural Policy enabling all Members States to introduces a "package" of good farming practices for the protection of pollinators. Pollinator-friendly practices are to become the eligibility criteria for a farmer to benefit from the Pollinator Eco-scheme. It comprehends a number of mandatory practices to be applied by farmers, as well as some other practices that Member States may wish to add to a package of beneficial measures for pollinators. The Pollinator Eco-Scheme provides an EU-wide tool within the CAP, easily adaptable to national or local levels.

## **KEY PROPOSALS**

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

#### **COMPULSORY MEASURES**

- A farmer includes one or more crops interesting to pollinators in at least in 10% of his/her agricultural surface every year, possibly looking for prolonged flowering along the year.
- Access to resources for honey bees and wild pollinators (food) all year long. Increase honey production.



- Choose crop varieties with proven nectar and pollen production. Or, habitat for pollinators: possibility to develop a new BEE-FRIENDLY PLANT BREEDING certification (melliferous potential).
- Contribution to the improvement of the bees' and pollinator health.



- Diversify the crop varieties planted in field (at least 3 varieties).
- Resilience of agrosystems. Presence of beneficial insects (natural predators) that limit the spread of pests.



- Presence of landscape features in the farm of min. 7%
- Improvement of pollination ecosystem services. Maintain Biodiversity.



- **No preventive use of pesticides** (incl. seed and soil treatment) and **in case of need, use of non-persistent pesticides** (DT50 lower than 15 days).
- Reduction of pesticides pollution in the environment: water, soil, air. Avoidance of chronic intoxication and respect of the "One health" logic.



- If pesticides treatment needs to be applied (proved IPM approach), apply only after sundown (when flying activity of pollinators is reduced) for all pesticides (including herbicides and fungicides).
- Avoidance of unnecessary use of pesticides and favors the implementation of alternatives; reduction of bee intoxication and beekeeping products contamination.



- At least 10 hours/year education for farmers on pollinators.
- farmers.

  Stimulation of social cohesion and empathy in rural

Provision of up-to-date science-based knowledge for



- One-to-one beekeeper farmer / naturalist farmer engagement.
- Stimulation of social cohesion and empathy in rural areas, promoting of best practices with sustainable yield growth.

#### **OPTIONAL MEASURES**

• Crop rotation (GAEC 8) as 4-7 years.

BeeLife proposes farmers and beekeepers/naturalists to receive appropriate incentives if they fulfil the criteria described above.

Member States should be enabled to establish the Pollinator Eco-Scheme as a pluriannual contract in their strategic plans.

### **POLLINATOR ECO-SCHEME OBJECTIVES**

- **Bringing nature back into the agricultural landscape** for increased resilience.
- Contributing to the achievements of the Farm To Fork and Biodiversity Strategies objectives within the CAP (i.e., pesticides' uses and risks reduction).
- Integrating the human dimension by reinforcing the link between different agricultural sectors for a productive relationship.
- Supporting and encouraging farmers to transition towards agroecology.
- Increasing honey production in Europe.
- Contributing to **improve the health of humans and pollinators** and that of the overall environment.
- Contributing to the **accountability of the CAP**.
- Transforming eco-schemes into attractive measures so that they become increasingly popular among farmers.

Our global vision for the future protection of pollinators within the CAP, pairing the Pollinator Eco-scheme with a series of measures:

# Level of requirement in terms of environmental protection **Pollinator Eco-scheme** Pillar 2 support • 1 or more crops interesting to · Agri-Environment Climate pollinators in at least 10% of Measures agricultural surface Agricultural Knowledge and Crop varieties that provide **Innovation Systems** Voluntary • Innovation and investment resources to pollinators for farmers Diversification • Farm Advisory Services Education Improving indicators in the CAP (Pollinators as impact indicators -Pollinator Index) Inter-stakeholder engagement Landscape features Sustainable use of pesticides for pollinators **Enhanced Conditionality Objectives** 1. Create a network of resources and habitat at landscape level. 2. Multiply the resources and habitat so that there is a year-long availability. 3. Reduce the presence of stressors: reduce pesticide prevalence and fertilizer pollution. Mandatory Means GAEC 1 "Permanent pasture" + control grazing pressure + attention to biocides and veterinary products. for farmers GAEC 4 Flowering strips = pollinator-attractive plants, attention to pesticide and mowing. GAEC 8 "Crop rotation" (min. 4 years, ideally 7) + pollinator-interesting crops. GAEC 9 "Non-productive areas"= bee-interesting plants + no pesticides + landscape features. GAEC 10 Grassland in Natura 2000 = control grazing pressure + attention to biocides and veterinary products. SMR 11, 12, 13 - IPM applied to animal and plant health.

For more information, please find our full report on the future of CAP and Pollinators at https://link.bee-life.eu/CAP2020, or contact Andrés SALAZAR at comms@bee-life.eu



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BeeLife European Beekeeping Coordination is an NGO working for the protection of pollinators in Europe linking field observations, science and policy. It counts with more than 20 members, beekeeping and farming associations coming from different EU Member States. www.bee-life.eu