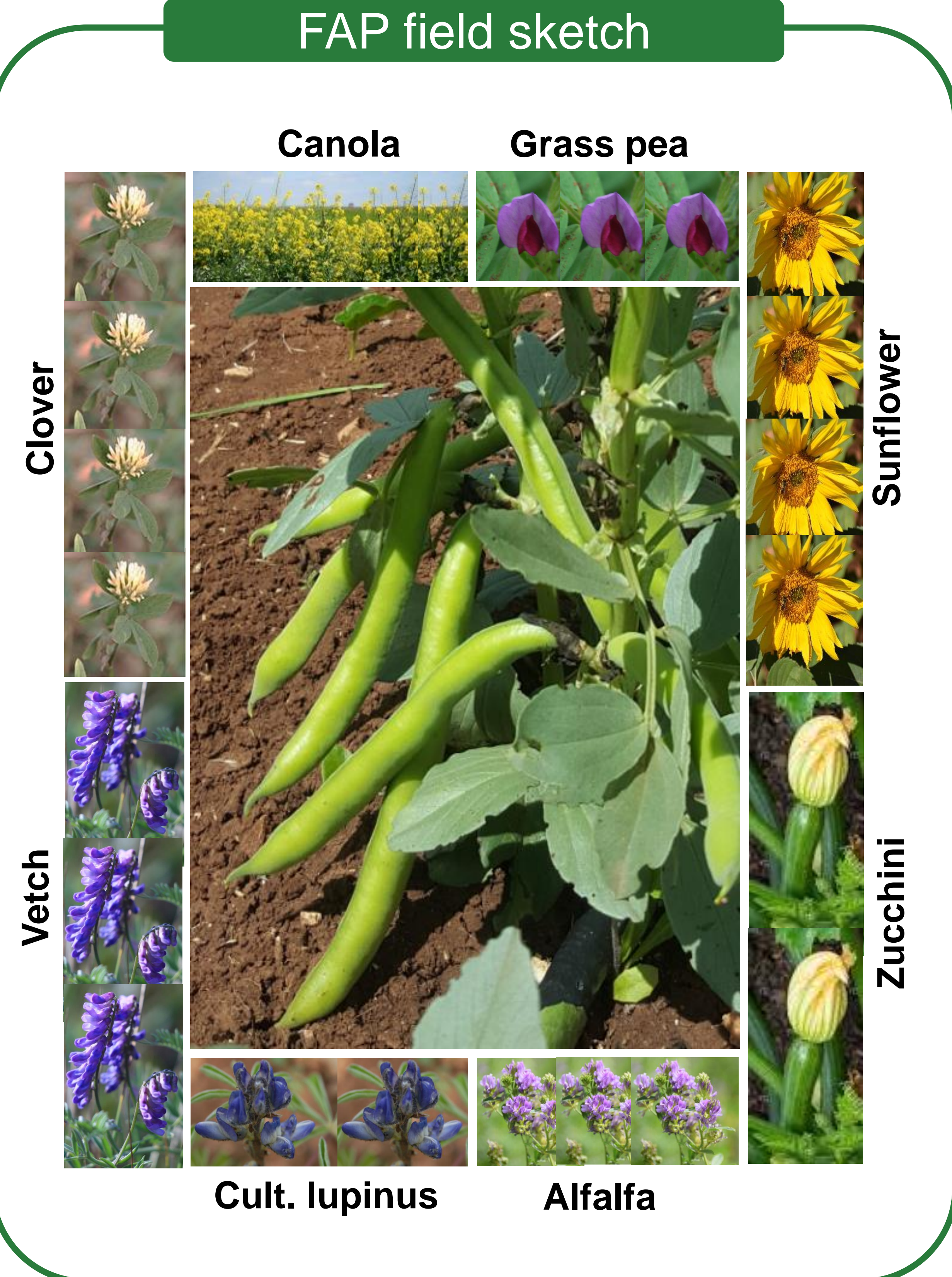


Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP)

Main pollinators of faba bean

FAP field sketch



Main pollinators

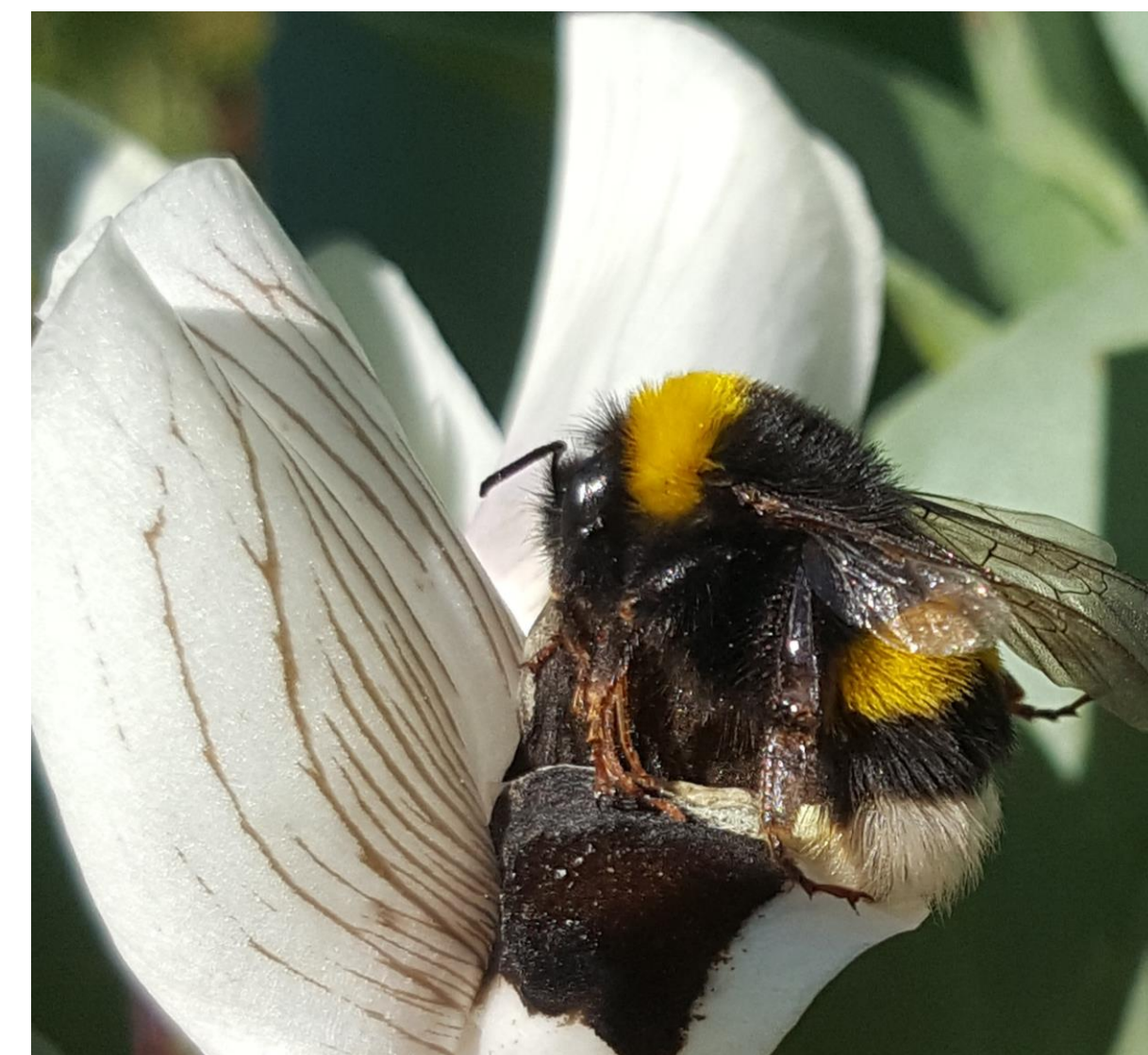
Digger bees



Mason bees



Bumble bees



Long-horned bees



How to support them

Bumble bees are much bigger than honeybees. They are hairy bees with often black, yellow and white bands. They are attracted by plants like eggplant, tomato, pepper, blueberry, faba bean, zucchini, sunflower and fruit trees. They are social bees (1). Only the queen hibernates and builds a nest for her colony using abandoned holes of mice or under piles of wood or dead leaves. Leaving these nesting areas intact will help support them.

Digger bees are usually smaller than honeybees. They fly very fast and can have many different colors, from grey to rusty red. They are attracted by plants with narrow tube flowers like faba bean, aromatic plants (basil, mint, rosemary, sage, oregano, thyme) but also tomato, pepper and eggplant. They are solitary and nest in the ground, often on vertical slopes (2). Leaving these nesting areas intact will help support them.

Long-horned bees are usually smaller than honeybees. In particular males are easy to recognize as they have long antennae. They have the same flower and nesting preferences as digger bees.

Mason bees are often smaller than honeybees. Many are black, metallic green or blue. They are attracted by aromatic plants (mint, basil, oregano, thyme), fruit trees (almond, cherry, apple), berries (blueberry, strawberry), faba bean or clover. They are solitary. They look for narrow cavities made by woodworms in dead trees. Keeping old wood (3) or making bee hotels (4) made of bamboo canes and wood logs with drilled holes will help support them.

