Support Pollinators and Boost Farmers' Incomes with Farming with Alternative Pollinators!

Why pollinators matter

- 85% of pollination services are provided by wild pollinators.
- They improve yield quantity and quality - even in harsh weather.
- Natural pest control reduces dependence on pesticides and lowers costs.

Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP) is a proven approach to protect pollinators while increasing crop yield and quality, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Instead of relying on external compensation for seeding services, FAP integrates marketable habitat enhancement plants (MHEP) alongside nesting and water support.

These steps increase farmer incomes and mprove crop production (e.g. cucumber and ggplant) by attracting a diverse range of pollinators and natural pest controllers.

The FAP solution

FAP encourages farmers to use MHEP instead of traditional wildflower strips (WFS), which are often rejected by farmers in low-income countries due to their varying results. MHEP:

- Attract more pollinators and natural pest predators.
- Generate income through marketable crops.
- Create sustainable and biodiversity-friendly landscapes.

Pollinator spotlights

- Bumblebees: Excellent for vegetables and fruits; nest in abandoned holes or under leaves.

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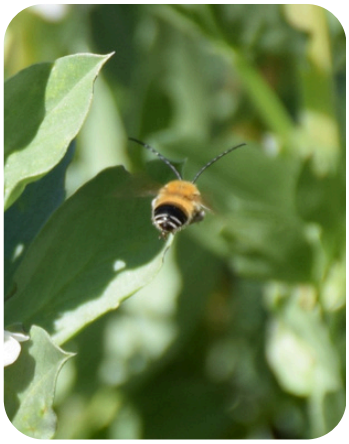
- Large carpenter bees: Use "buzz pollination" for eggplants and tomatoes; nest in wood logs.
- Long-horned bees: Pollinate faba beans and arugula; nest in bare soil.
- Syrphid flies: Pollinate crops and their larvae control pests like aphids.
- Digger wasps: Their larvae control pests by consuming beetle larvae.

Top L-R: large carpenter bee and long-horned bee. Bottom L-R: digger wasp and syrphid fly.


Simple actions to protect pollinators

- Plant MHEP to provide year-round food and nesting materials.
- Avoid pesticides or apply them only at sunrise or sunset.
- Create bare soil patches and preserve wood logs for nesting sites.
- Build artificial nests like bee hotels.

Proven benefits of FAP

- Higher Yields: Farmers using FAP report increased fruit quantity and quality.
- Reduced Pests: Natural enemies like digger wasps and syrphid flies help control pests.
- Greater Income: MHEP fields outperform monoculture fields economically.

Success stories

Since its launch in Uzbekistan in 2013 and Morocco in 2015, FAP has demonstrated higher farmer incomes, enhanced biodiversity, and scalability across West Asia and North Africa.

Key insights

- MHEP offers prolonged blooming periods and functional plant diversity.
- Farmers accept MHEP over wildflower strips, which are often perceived as weeds.
- Supporting pollinator-friendly practices is essential for sustainable agriculture.

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