ICARDA
Science for resilient livelihoods in dry areas

IKI

المكتب الوطني للإستشارة الفلاحية
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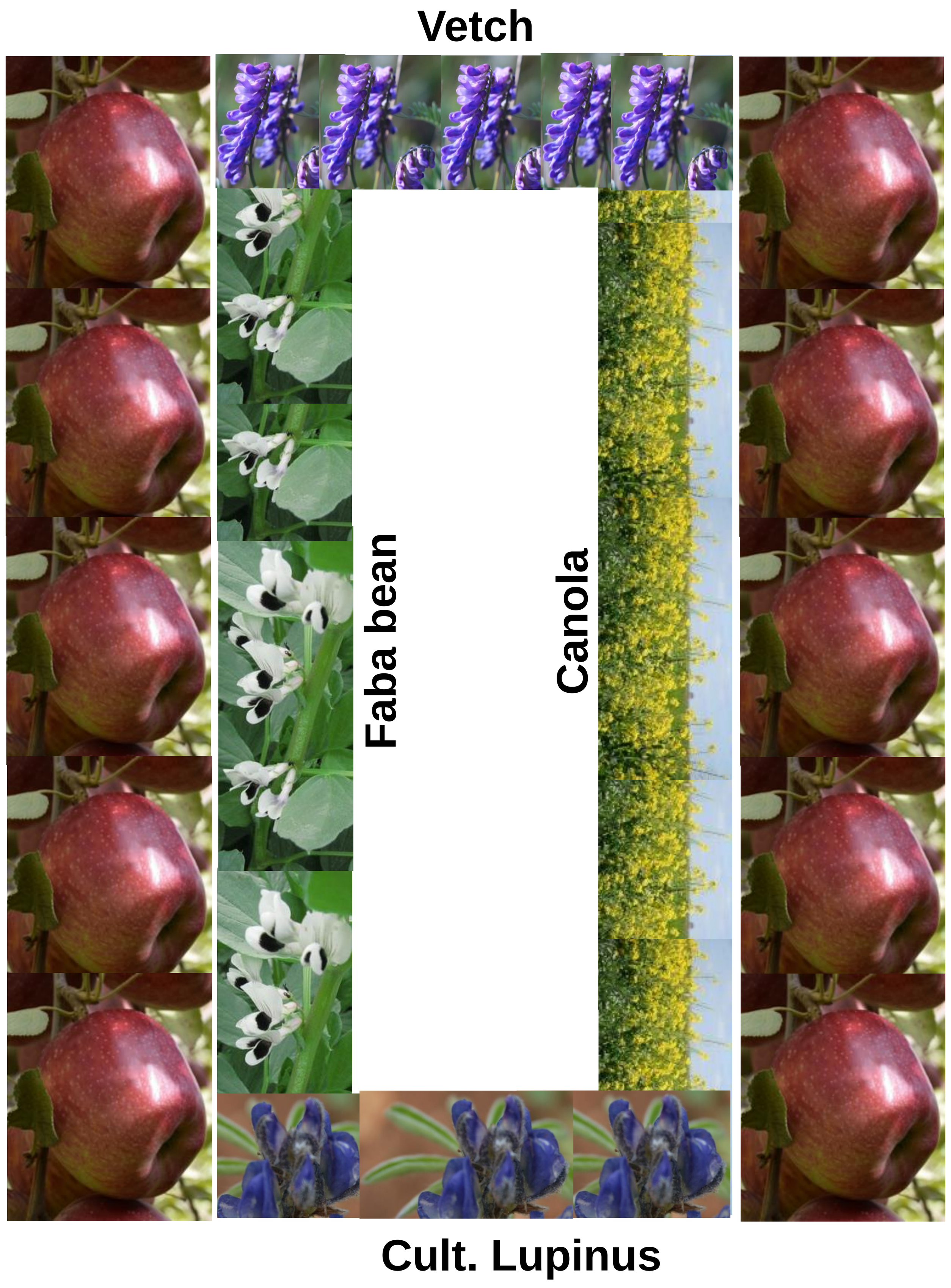
Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP)

Main pollinators of apple

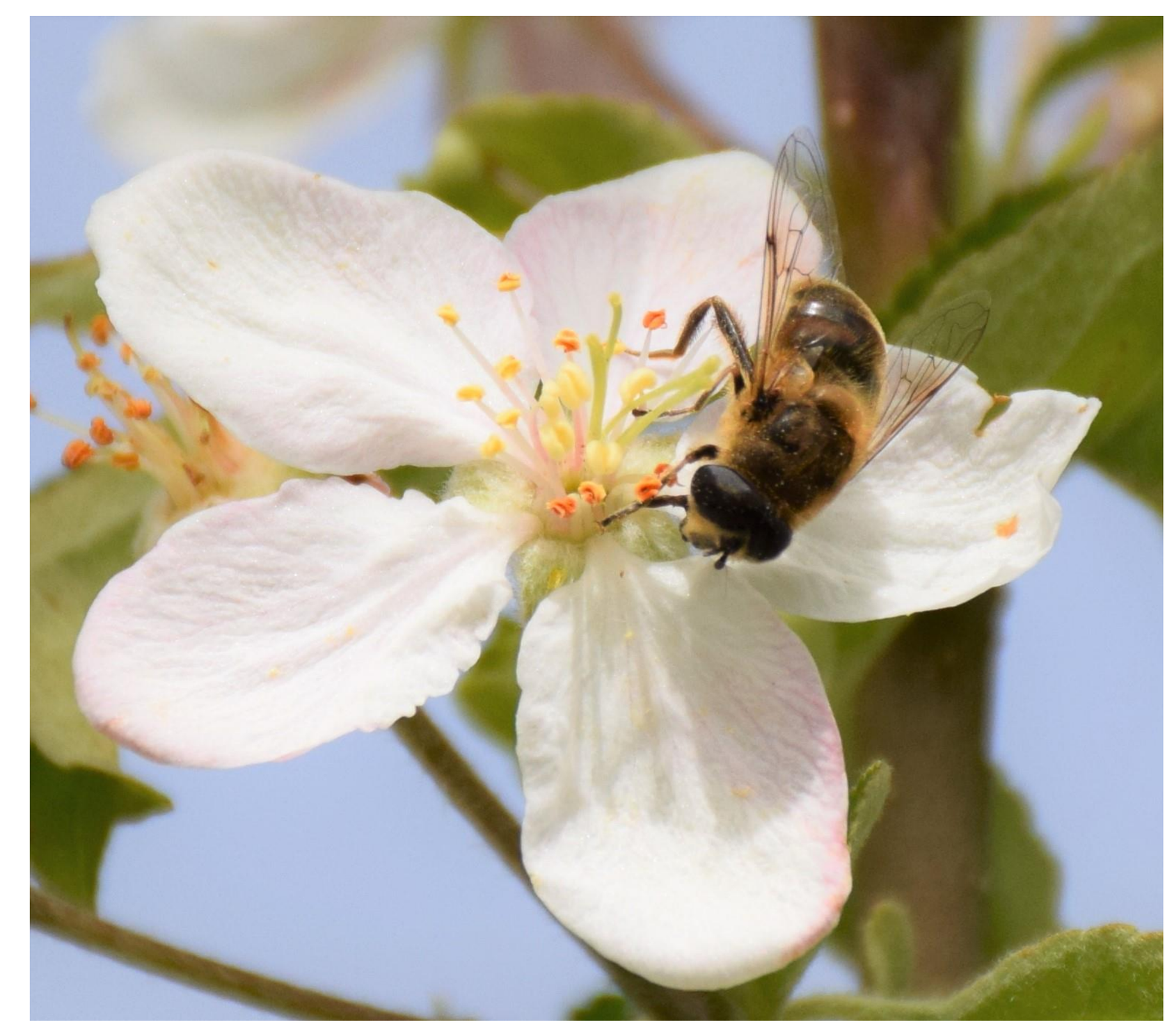
FAP field sketch



Main pollinators

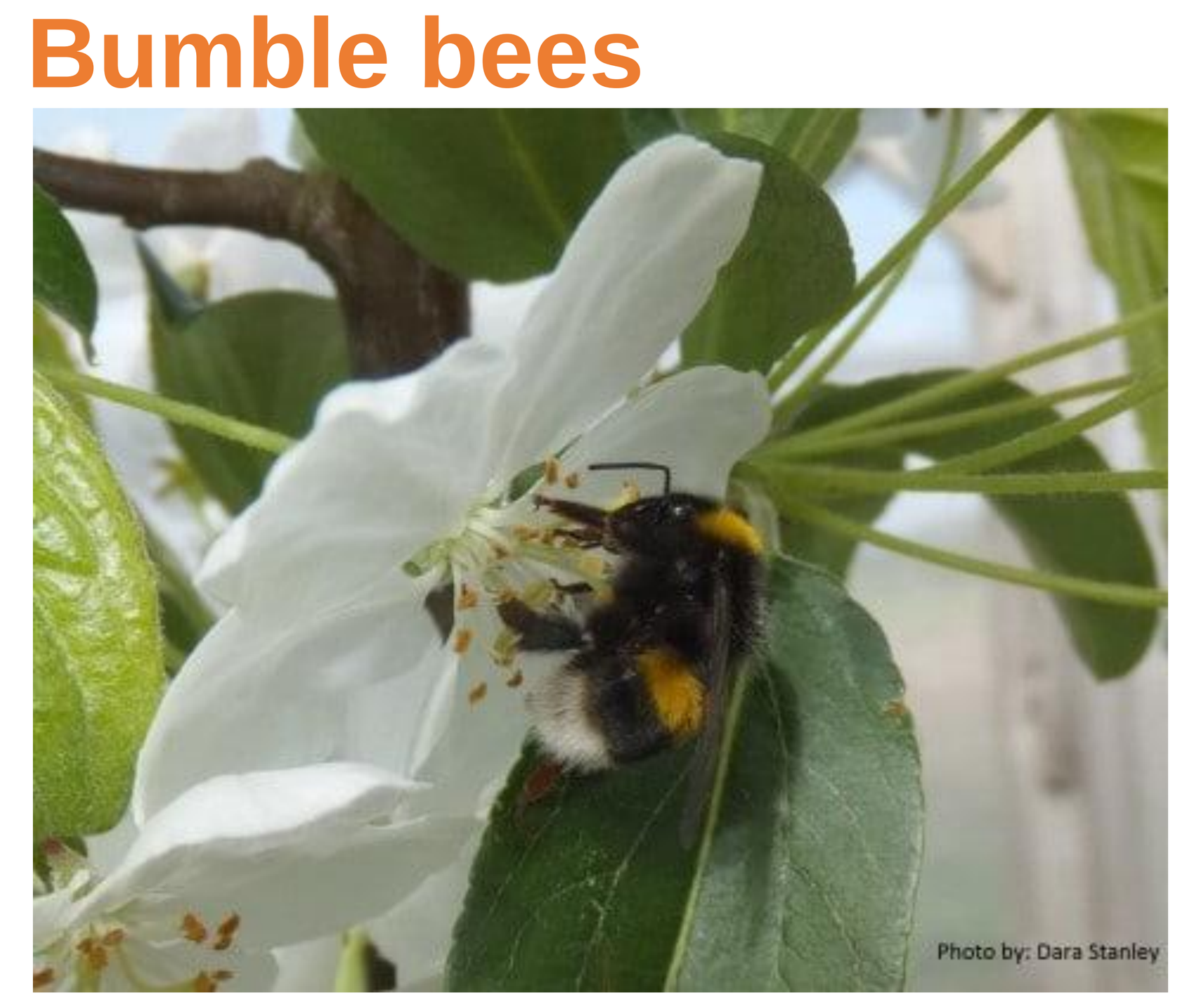
Mining bees

Hover flies



Mason bees

Bumble bees



How to support them

Mining bees are smaller or have the size of honeybees. They have different colors from gray to brown and red. They are attracted by plants with open flowers like, canola, fruit trees (apple, cherry, apricot). They are solitary and nest in the ground (1). Some nest only in bare ground while others nest under rocks or dead leaves. Clearing patches of bare ground and reducing tillage will support them.

Hover flies often resemble bees and are difficult to separate from them at first sight. They are attracted by many crops with open flowers like fruit trees (peach, apple), canola, strawberry. Some hover flies eat aphids as larvae, so they are beneficial also for pest control. Many species breed in stagnant little water puddles with organic rotting matter inside. Using a container with water and grass clippings and dead leaves (2) will encourage them in your field.

Mason bees are often smaller than honeybees. Many are black, metallic green or blue. They are attracted by aromatic plants (mint, basil, oregano, thyme), flowers of 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 or making bee hotels (3) out of bamboo canes or wood logs with drilled holes will help support them.

Bumble bees are much bigger than honeybees. They are hairy bees with often black, yellow and white bands. They are attracted by eggplant, tomato, pepper, blueberry, faba bean, zucchini, sunflower and fruit trees. They are social bees (4). 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.