

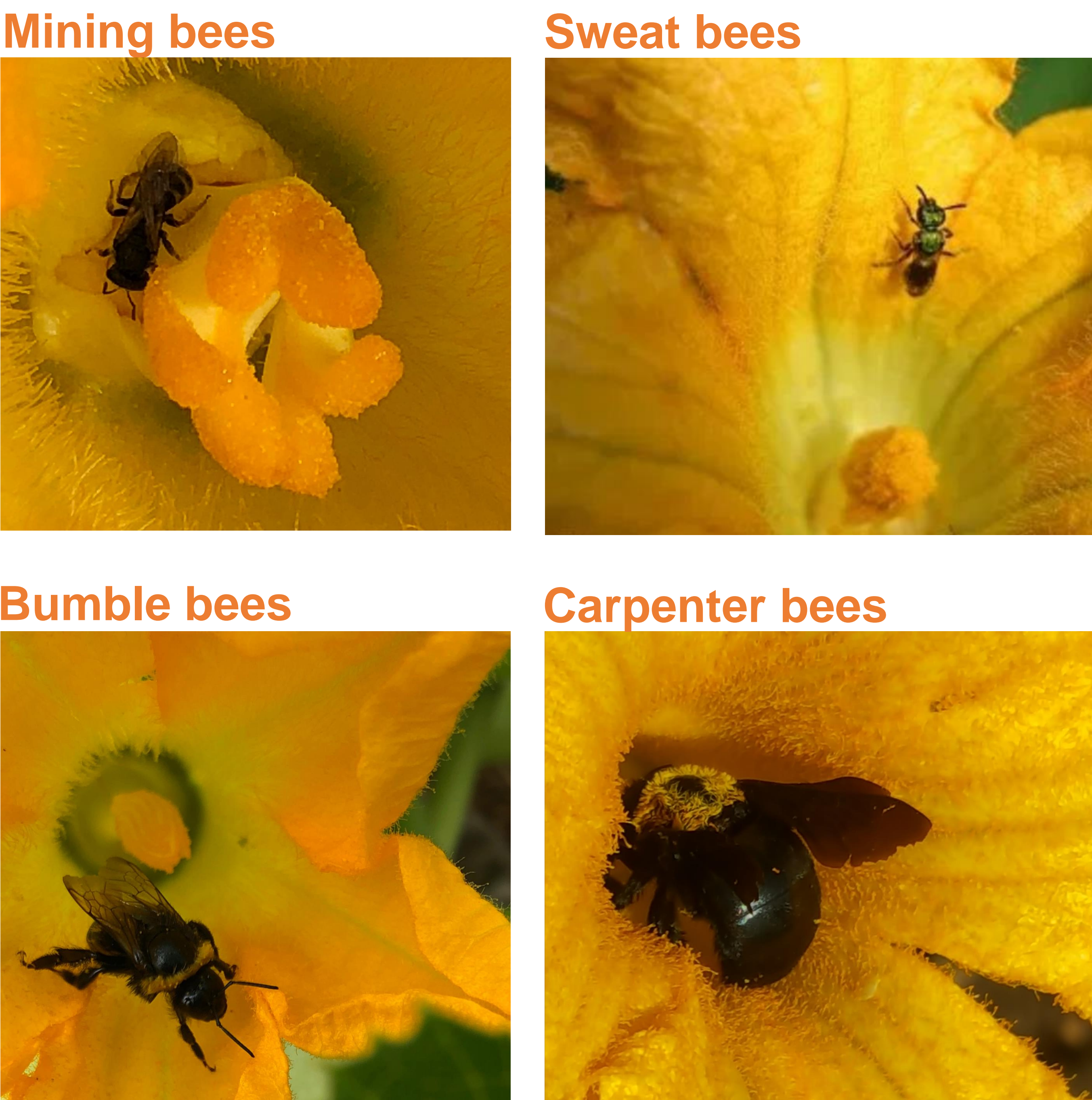
Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP)

Main pollinators of zucchini

FAP field sketch



Main pollinators



How to support them

Mining bees are smaller than 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 or bare ground and reducing tillage will support them.

Sweat bees are small, often much smaller than honeybees. They are usually black all over but some have also some red, yellow or even shiny green. They are very common and are attracted by plants with open flowers such as sunflower, fruit trees (apple, cherry, peach). Sweat bees are mostly solitary and nest in the ground. You can notice the little mound of excavated soil left at the nest entrance (2). Clearing patches or bare ground and reducing tillage will support them.

Bumble bees are much bigger than honeybees. They are hairy bees with often black, yellow and white bands. They are attracted e.g. by eggplant, tomato, pepper, blueberry, faba bean, zucchini, sunflower and fruit trees. They are social bees (3). 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.

Carpenter bees are much bigger than honeybees and either black or yellow. They are attracted by faba bean, tomato, eggplant and sunflower. They are solitary, the female chew large holes in old wood for their nests (4). Keeping old wood in your farm will help attract and support them.

