# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FARMERS


**LIFE 4 POLLINATORS**

INVOLVING PEOPLE TO PROTECT WILD BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

This code of conduct has been drafted during the implementation of the LIFE18 GIE/IT/000755 co-financed by the LIFE Program of the European Union.

www.life4pollinators.eu

## 1. REDUCING PESTICIDE EXPOSURE

### 1.1 Field monitoring of pests

### 1.2 Use non-agrochemical pest management:

1.2.1 agricultural practices (e.g. rotations, intercropping, cover crops, green manure, conservative practices);
1.2.2 physical practices (e.g. soil solarization, flame weeding);
1.2.3 mechanical practices (e.g. protective netting);
1.2.4 biological and microbiological control;
1.2.5 other low-impact control methods (e.g. mating disruption).

### 1.3 When it is not possible to avoid chemical control (e.g. when the economic threshold is exceeded or for mandatory control):

1.3.1 select compounds with low toxicity for bees and avoid pesticides labelled "highly toxic for bees";
1.3.2 apply pesticides when pollinators are not foraging, e.g. at dusk or when plants are not in flower;
1.3.3 when highly persistent pesticides are used, avoid sowing pollinator-attractive crops the following year to avoid exposing pollinators to toxic residues;
1.3.4 avoid insecticides, acaricides and other pesticides highly toxic for bees and other pollinators when plants are flowering or producing extrafloral compounds (e.g. honeydew);
1.3.5 avoid pesticide use before wild plants that are flowering among crops or in contiguous vegetation have been buried, chopped or mowed (disposing of all plant residues) or until wildflowers attractive to pollinators have wilted;
1.3.6 refrain from pesticide application and from sowing coated seeds under windy conditions to avoid contamination of surrounding flowers;

1.3.7 protect border vegetation by avoiding pesticide drift with an anti-drift nozzle;

1.3.8 turn off the atomiser when approaching field borders;

1.3.9 avoid tank mixtures with pesticides that can interact synergistically or generally avoid insecticide and fungicide mixtures, especially with triazole (e.g. propiconazole and carboxamide (e.g. boscalid) fungicides;

1.3.10 clean pesticide spraying equipment so as not to leave residues;

1.3.11 add deflectors when pneumatic vacuum sowing machines are used so that exhaust air is released close to the ground (for crops requiring treated seed);

1.3.12 notify neighbouring beekeepers sufficiently in advance when pesticides dangerous for bees are applied;

1.3.13 when a pollination contract is stipulated, be sure to define beekeeper's and grower's rights and duties.

## 2. PROVIDING AND INCREASING FORAGING HABITATS FOR POLLINATORS

**2.1 Sow flower resources or maintain field margin vegetation and spontaneous flower strips in unproductive and less accessible areas;**

**2.2 diversify crop species to ensure different flowering periods;**

**2.3 carry out selective mowing, sparing nectariferous and polleniferous flora and less virulent weeds;**

**2.4 use entomophilous plants as green manure between crops (e.g. Berseem clover or fava bean between wheat and rapeseed);**

**2.5 prefer autochthonous crop varieties;**

**2.6 prefer crop cultivars with high pollen and nectar production**

## 3. PROVIDING APPROPRIATE NESTING HABITAT & INCREASING ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

**3.1** Provide artificial nesting-sites (e.g. bee hotels) for wild bees and other natural pest enemies;

**3.2** maintain ecological infrastructures at farm and landscape level: hedgerows, woody vegetation, roadsides, dykes, field boundaries, windbreaks and ditches can be good foraging and nesting habitats for pollinators;

**3.3** create and/or maintain bare ground in sunny dry locations for solitary underground-nesting bees. When possible, practice no-tillage to avoid destruction of bee nests.

## 4. ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH CONSUMER CHOICES

**4.1** Choose organic products;

**4.2** choose local and seasonal products;

**4.3** read product labels to check product origin, quality certifications, designations of origin and Life4pollinators label;

**4.4** reduce and reuse food waste (as compost).

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