



Policies for Sustainable Pollination in Europe

Outcomes of the Super-B policy workshop, held **Tuesday 03 March 2015**
COST office, Avenue Louise 149, Marie Curie Boardroom, Brussels, Belgium

Overall summary

Two European policies require evidence on sustainable pollination in the years 2015-2018.

1. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The Common Agricultural Policy will be reviewed in 2017, and revised from 2018 onwards. Super-B should aim to produce:

- A **policy briefing note** in early 2017, summarising scientific knowledge on how compulsory greening measures can benefit pollinator communities and pollination services.
- **Guidance** on how to assess multiple ecosystem service benefits from agri-environment schemes (by 2017).
- A **summary** of experience from Member States of risk management tools that help farmers manage risks to pollinators (by 2018).

2. The EU Biodiversity Strategy (Biodiversity 2020)

This strategy is being reviewed in 2015, and will be renewed or revised from 2018 onwards. It requires scientific information on how to measure success. Can the Super-B community develop:

- A research project to understand what makes a 'healthy' or resilient bee community in different European countries? Policy makers also need to know how bee (or pollinator) diversity relates to diversity patterns in other taxa.

AT ITS MEETING IN MALTA, NOVEMBER 2015, THE SUPER-B DISSEMINATION GROUP AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THESE FINDINGS AND INCORPORATED THEM INTO PLANNING FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR.

Workshop summary

The workshop *Policies for Sustainable Pollination in Europe* was a key step in the dissemination work programme for the Super-B COST Action (http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/fa/Actions/FA1307). Super-B is a network of scientists and other professionals working on sustainable pollination for European crops and wild flowers (<http://superb-project.eu/>).

The workshop brought together scientists working on pollinators and pollination with officials from Government or European Departments, working on evidence or policy development in one of the following areas: agriculture, pesticides, livestock trade, honey bee health, human health & nutrition and biodiversity and ecosystem services. A list of attendees is provided at the end of this document. The purpose was to inform the activity of the Super-B dissemination working group over the forthcoming three years.

Objectives of the workshop:

1. To identify forthcoming policy opportunities at European level in the period 2015-2020, to support sustainable pollination services in urban and rural environments.
2. To anticipate the evidence needs of those policy opportunities, providing timelines.
3. To shape the ideal format for presenting or developing relevant scientific evidence.

Objective 1: What are the forthcoming policy opportunities 2015-2020 where Super-B science could be useful?

What policy?	When?	Why is science needed?
Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) mid-term review	2017	To validate practices (including the benefits of providing pollinator forage resources on farms) To enhance efficacy
CAP – new developments, post 2020	2018 onwards	To validate practices To enhance efficacy To support development of pollinators as an agricultural input (including incentives to develop trade in new and existing managed pollinators)
Neonicotinoid ban	Now (ongoing)	To provide information on the actual impacts of the ban on wild and management pollinators.
Sustainable Use Directive	2016 onwards	To support evidence-based decision making around Integrated Pest Management and pesticide use reduction.
Biodiversity Strategy Review	2015	To understand the relative importance of <i>Apis</i> vs wild pollinators
Biodiversity Strategy new	2018 onwards	To understand how to support rare pollinator species

One group stressed the importance of scientific information and science-policy interactions being at Member State level.

Objectives 2 and 3: The evidence needs and how to deliver them

What evidence is needed	How should it be presented?	When?
<p>CAP Pillar 1</p> <p>How can crop diversification, permanent grasslands and Ecological Focus Areas support bees and other taxa?</p> <p>Synthesize evidence on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much (area)? • What crop/variety? • Where in the landscape? • What management? 	<p>Short, quantitative, concise policy brief, supported by a Technical Report.</p>	<p>Workshop and STSM 2015/2016.</p> <p>Technical report 2016.</p> <p>Policy brief, start 2017.</p>
<p>CAP Pillar 2</p> <p>Evaluation of the benefit to rural areas of other ecosystem services (non-pollination: food, cultural values etc)</p>	<p>EU framework methodology (harmonised).</p> <p>Regional expert consultation?</p>	<p>Workshop in 2015/2016</p> <p>Method agreed by mid- 2016</p> <p>Policy brief 2017</p>
<p>CAP Pillar 2</p> <p>Risk management tools available in some countries to be extrapolated to EU level. (eg Insurance schemes in Italy to help reduce dependence on neonicotinoids)</p>	<p>Evidence-based guidelines on risk management.</p>	<p>By 2018.</p>
<p>Evaluation of EU Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Biodiversity of bee community (what a 'healthy' bee community looks like).</p> <p>Links between bees and wider biodiversity.</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <p>Expert meeting</p> <p>Policy Briefs</p> <p>→Indicator</p>	<p>Research 2015-2017.</p> <p>Indicator ready by start of 2018, to feed into new Biodiversity</p>

DELEGATE LIST

Name		Organisation	
László	Békési	Research Centre for Farm Animal Gene Conservation	HU
Koos	Biesmeijer	Naturalis Biodiversity Center	NL
Mark	Brown	Royal Holloway, University of London	UK
Luciano	Concezzi	Umbria Agrofood Technology Park	IT
Kevin	Conry	Department of Agriculture, Fish and the Marine	IE
Lynn	Dicks	University of Cambridge	UK
Serge	Gadoum	Office Pour les Insectes et leur Environnement	FR
Mariana	Garcia	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	EU
Manuela	Giovanetti	Università di Firenze	IT
Reet	Karise	Eesti Maaulikool	EE
Salima	Kempnaer	DG Environment, Federal government	BE
Katja	Knauer	Federal Office for Agriculture	CH
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