

Agriculture & Biodiversity



WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity is defined as the

- 1 diversity within species (genetic diversity)
- 2 diversity of species (number of species)
- 3 diversity of ecosystems and their services



Agriculture depends on **BIODIVERSITY**



Of the 100 globally most used agricultural crops, delivering about 90 % of nutrition, 71 are pollinated by bees.



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15 billion EUR of annual EU agricultural output is directly attributed to pollinators.

The projected fast-growing human global population will require large increases in food production within the next decades.



.....
 Globally 50 % of all habitable land has been converted to farmland.



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 Utilised agricultural area in the EU covers 40 % of the total land area.

Food security & agricultural intensification

GLOBALLY, FOOD SYSTEMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:



- ◆ around 24 % of the global greenhouse gas emissions,
- ◆ 33 % of degraded soils,
- ◆ **60 % of global terrestrial biodiversity loss.**

Biodiversity can be supported by **AGRICULTURE**



Agriculture is important for the conservation of biodiversity because the presence of many species and habitats is closely linked to agricultural land-use.

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 Approximately **50 % of European species** are dependent on agricultural habitats.

Due to:
 changes in land-use
 destruction of primary ecosystems
 over-exploitation
 pollution of water and soils
 non-native invasive species



! The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is not simply an environmental issue but it is a key requirement for our nutrition, production processes, services and the overall quality of life.



This Infographic is part of the **EU LIFE Project "Biodiversity in Standards and Labels for the Food Industry"**. The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

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Credits: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Article 2; UNEP (2011) Global Bee Colony Disorders and other Threats to Insect Pollinators; Biodiversity Information System for Europe (2010) Cropland and grassland; Eurostat (2018) Farm structure statistics; UNEP (2016) Food Systems and Natural Resources. A Report of the Working Group on Food Systems of the International Resource Panel. Westhoek, H, Ingram J., Van Berkum, S., Özay, L., and Hajer M.

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