

Aims and Objectives

This study uses parallel surveys of farmers and beekeepers in 10 European countries to explore:

1. What crops do beekeepers use to feed their hives and what crops do they avoid?
2. What crops do farmers use managed pollinators, including honeybees for?
3. Do farmers think their yields are limited by inadequate pollination?
4. What opportunities are there to foster co-operation between them?

Surveys were distributed in local languages. 1708 beekeepers and 426 farmers were surveyed

Results - Beekeepers

No significant differences between countries

Main reasons to use crops

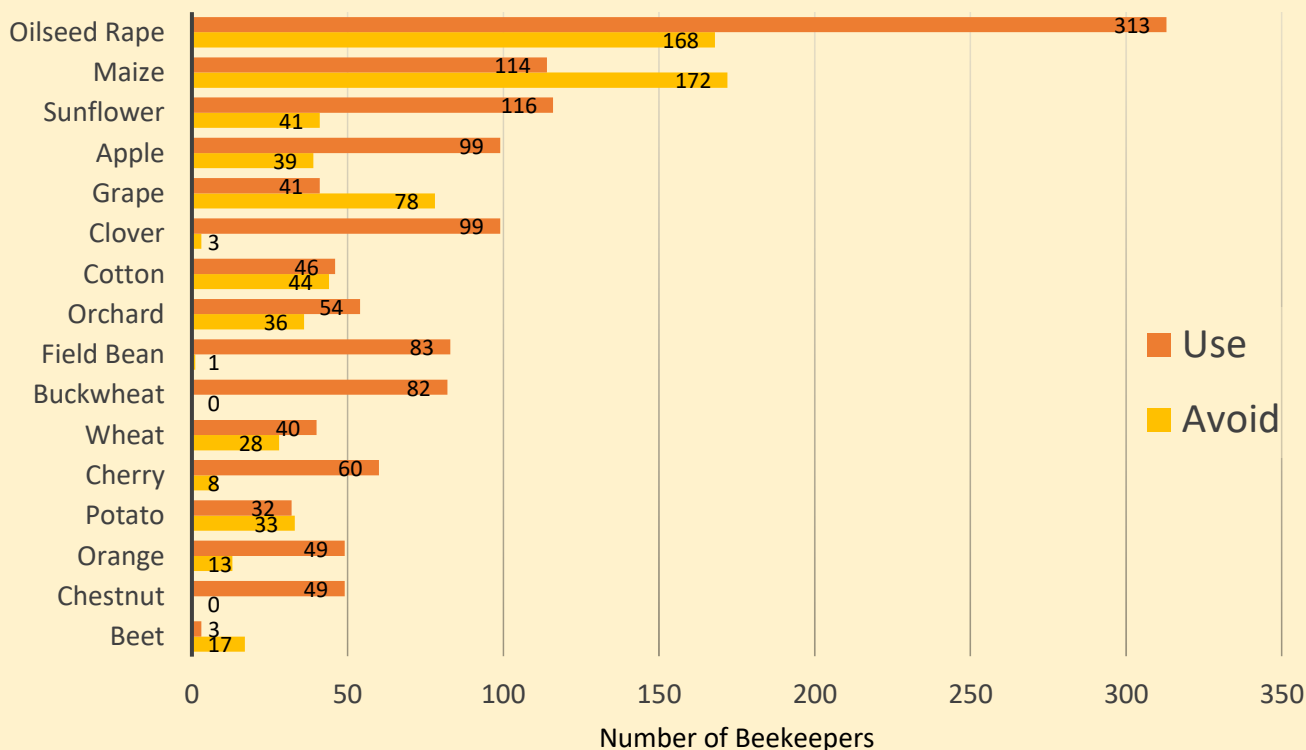
- Good honey yield (50%)
- Locally accessible (49%)
- Widely available (46%)

Main reasons to avoid crops

- Pesticide risks (74%)
- Toxic compounds in pollen and nectar (30%)
- Better alternatives available (18%)



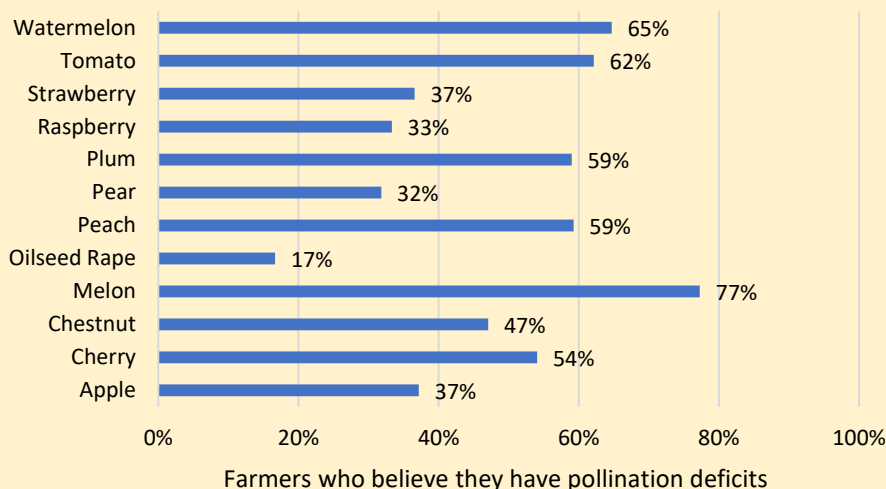
Figure 1 – The most common crops used and avoided by the beekeepers



Results - Farmers

- 49% of farmers believed their yields were limited by inadequate pollination.
- This was less likely in farmers who owned their own hives or managed hedgerows or flower rich field margins
- 47% of farmers owned or hired managed pollinators
- 64% of farmers used agri-environment measures that benefit pollinators
- Most farmers did not use these measures because they support pollinators, but because they believed they had other benefits

Figure 4 – Proportion of farmers who believe they have pollination service deficits in each crop



Results – What do respondents want?

- Beekeepers wanted lower pesticide exposure risks
- Relatively few beekeepers wanted a pesticide ban
- Professional beekeepers were less concerned about pesticides than hobbyists
- Professional beekeepers wanted more paid pollination and subsidies for beekeeping
- Hobby beekeepers wanted more non-crop forage in the landscape
- Farmers wanted more information on pollination

Recommendations

- There needs to be better communication between farmers and beekeepers regarding pesticides and possibly regulation on their use.
- Review access rights and site availability for honeybee hives in the UK
- Explore how beekeepers make trade-off decisions regarding using or avoiding a crop and where they get information from.
- Investigate ways of expanding paid pollination services contracts at a national level and/or subsidies for professional beekeeping.
- Support further research into the scale of pollination service deficits and the impacts of agri-environment schemes on pollinators

Figure 2 - Beekeepers

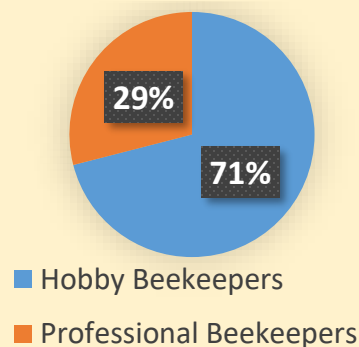
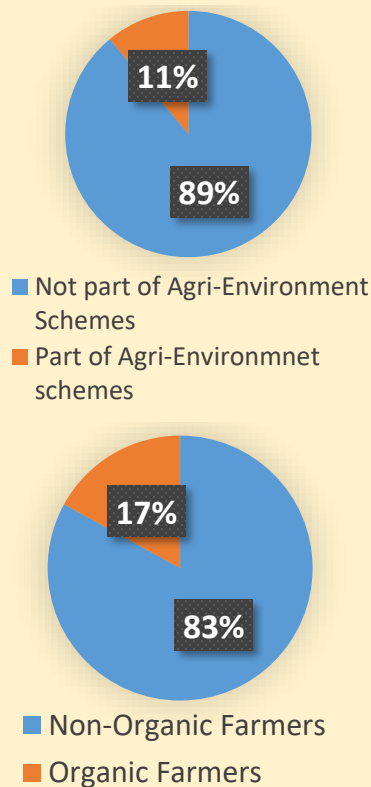


Figure 3 - Farmers



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