

## WORLD BEE DAY



**WORLD BEE DAY 2021 is on Thursday, 20 May 2021.** Bee Day celebrations raise awareness about the threats to pollinators like bees by human activities.

In December 2017 UN approved this day and the First World Bee Day was celebrated on Sunday, 20 May 2018. On this date, 20 May, the pioneer of beekeeping Anton Janša was born in 1734 in Slovenia. World Bee Day 2021 Theme is "Bee Engaged". By this theme, United Nations focused upon the beekeeping awareness and importance of bee derived products.

Bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, bats and hummingbirds, are increasingly under threat from human activities. Pollination is, however, a fundamental process for the survival of our ecosystems. Nearly 90% of the world's wild flowering plant species depend, entirely, or at least in part, on animal pollination, along with more than 75% of the world's food crops and 35% of global agricultural land. Not only do pollinators contribute directly to food security, but they are key to conserving biodiversity. We all depend on pollinators and it is, therefore, crucial to monitor their decline and halt the loss of biodiversity.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has had an undeniable impact on the beekeeping sector affecting the production, the market and as a consequence, the livelihoods of beekeepers. This year, World Bee Day focused on bee production and good practices adopted by beekeepers to support their livelihoods and deliver good quality products. To mark the Day, a virtual event - under the theme "Bee Engaged" - highlighted the importance of traditional knowledge related to beekeeping, the use of bee-derived products and services, and their importance in achieving the SDGs.

## How can we do more?

### Individually by:

- planting a diverse set of native plants, which flower at different times of the year;
- buying raw honey from local farmers;
- buying products from sustainable agricultural practices;
- avoiding pesticides, fungicides or herbicides in our gardens;
- protecting wild bee colonies when possible;
- sponsoring a hive;
- making a bee water fountain by leaving a water bowl outside;
- helping sustaining forest ecosystems;
- raising awareness around us by sharing this information within our communities and networks; The decline of bees affects us all!

### As beekeepers, or farmers by:

- reducing, or changing the usage of pesticides;
- diversifying crops as much as possible, and/or planting attractive crops around the field;
- creating hedgerows.

### As governments and decision-makers by:

- strengthening the participation of local communities in decision-making, in particular that of indigenous people, who know and respect ecosystems and biodiversity;
- enforcing strategic measures, including monetary incentives to help change;
- increasing collaboration between national & international organizations, academic and research networks to monitor and evaluate pollination services.

