



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



20 May 2026
World Bee Day



Bee together

for people and the planet

A partnership that sustains us all

Get involved



#WorldBeeDay
fao.org/world-bee-day



Get involved

Bees and other pollinators are essential for our existence, sustaining agriculture and biodiversity worldwide. However, they face unprecedented pressures due to land use change, climate change, indiscriminate use of agrochemicals, and invasive pests and pathogens.

The celebration of World Bee Day on 20 May presents an opportunity to step up our efforts to protect bees and other pollinators. By doing so, we can mitigate risks to food security and nutrition, agricultural livelihoods, biodiversity and the environment.

Use this guide to get inspired and get involved!



The theme for 2026



Under the theme “Bee Together for People and the Planet - A partnership that sustains us all”, World Bee Day 2026 highlights and celebrates the strong and long-lasting partnership between humans and bees.

For millennia, bees and people have shared a close and evolving connection, shaped by the ways **communities across the world have relied on bees for food and livelihoods**, with bees often becoming part of their **cultural identity**. From honey hunting to a large variety of beekeeping systems, this relationship has continually adapted to different environments, technologies, and socio-cultural needs.

World Bee Day 2026 focuses on how **humans and bees have been working together** to nourish and sustain people and the environment. It will highlight the evolution of beekeeping across diverse cultures and landscapes over thousands of years, while promoting innovative approaches that improve bee production and health, and support the livelihoods of beekeepers, including women and youth.

It will also emphasize how **both traditional knowledge and modern technologies can contribute to sustainable beekeeping**, and how partnerships and inclusive approaches can help secure a sustainable future for both pollinators and people, while advancing the transformation of agrifood systems.

This theme aligns closely with the [International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists 2026](#) and the [International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026](#), offering valuable opportunities to reflect on the role of beekeeping in rural and pastoral livelihoods and its contribution to women’s empowerment.

Read more to find out how you can get involved!



Facts about bees and other pollinators



Close to 75 percent of the world's major crops benefit, to some extent, from pollinators, particularly fruits, vegetables and nuts.

Most bees are wild and solitary, only 8–11 species are honey bees.



About 25 000 species of bees exist worldwide, inhabiting all continents except Antarctica.



Both wild and domesticated bees are important for crop pollination.

Worldwide there are more than 300 unique monofloral honey types.

Hive products include honey, pollen, royal jelly, propolis, venom and beeswax.



Almost 90 percent of the world's flowering wild plants (approximately 308 000 species) depend, to varying degrees, on pollinators for their reproduction.



Take action

Now is the time to re-think how we relate to nature and pollinators and take action to protect them and the livelihoods they support.

All of us

Learn more.

Observe the different types of **bees and other pollinators** in your area. Understand their **habitats** and needs for survival.

Plant pollinator-friendly gardens and create bee habitats.

Choose **native plants and attractive crops**, including flowers that bloom at different times of the year, so that they provide food for bees and other pollinators.

Set up bee houses or **nesting sites** for solitary bees, create **hedgerows** and leave some space for bees and other pollinators to nest on and underground.

Help these tiny miracle workers by **reducing the frequency of lawn mowing**.

Support local beekeepers.

Learn more about **beekeeping** and **local bee products** (e.g. honey, pollen, wax, propolis).

Buy honey and other bee products from local beekeepers and gatherers.

Protect bees and other pollinators.

Reduce the use of, or **find safer alternatives to, harmful chemicals**.

Avoid the introduction of exotic bees to new landscapes and raise public awareness about the risks of such introduction to local ecosystems.

Governments

Develop and implement **national strategies, policies and action plans** to protect and enhance pollinator populations and institute risk assessment and mitigation measures.

Promote **sustainable practices** – such as crop diversification, integrated pest management, agroforestry – which enable bees and pollinators to thrive and thereby continue providing essential ecosystem services.

Food business operators

Enhance the sustainability of agricultural production and meet the increasing demand for sustainable and environmentally responsible products through **supply chain transparency, investments in research and innovation**, engagement with farmers, and collaboration with governments and non-governmental organizations.

Prioritize **pollinator health** when sourcing food products; for instance, rely on farmers practicing sustainable agriculture or pollinator-friendly production methods.



Civil society organizations (CSOs)

Facilitate dialogue, knowledge sharing and **collaboration** among all relevant actors.

Strengthen efforts like **capacity building, monitoring, surveillance** and **reporting** on pollinator populations, to better guide conservation actions.

Advocate for policies that **empower Indigenous Peoples** to protect pollinators and preserve biodiversity in general.

Research and scientific community

Work together with all relevant actors, to advance research on **pollinator monitoring**.

Foster **research and innovative solutions** to address key challenges to sustainable beekeeping and pollinator well-being.

Encourage **Indigenous Peoples-led research** and ensure they retain full rights and ownership of their **knowledge** on pollinators when they contribute to research.

Urban dwellers and beekeepers

Raise **awareness** about how pollinators are essential for the food we eat, the gardens we enjoy, and the ecosystems that sustain our cities.

Encourage **youth** to learn about the roles of bees, butterflies and other pollinators in the environment and agrifood systems.

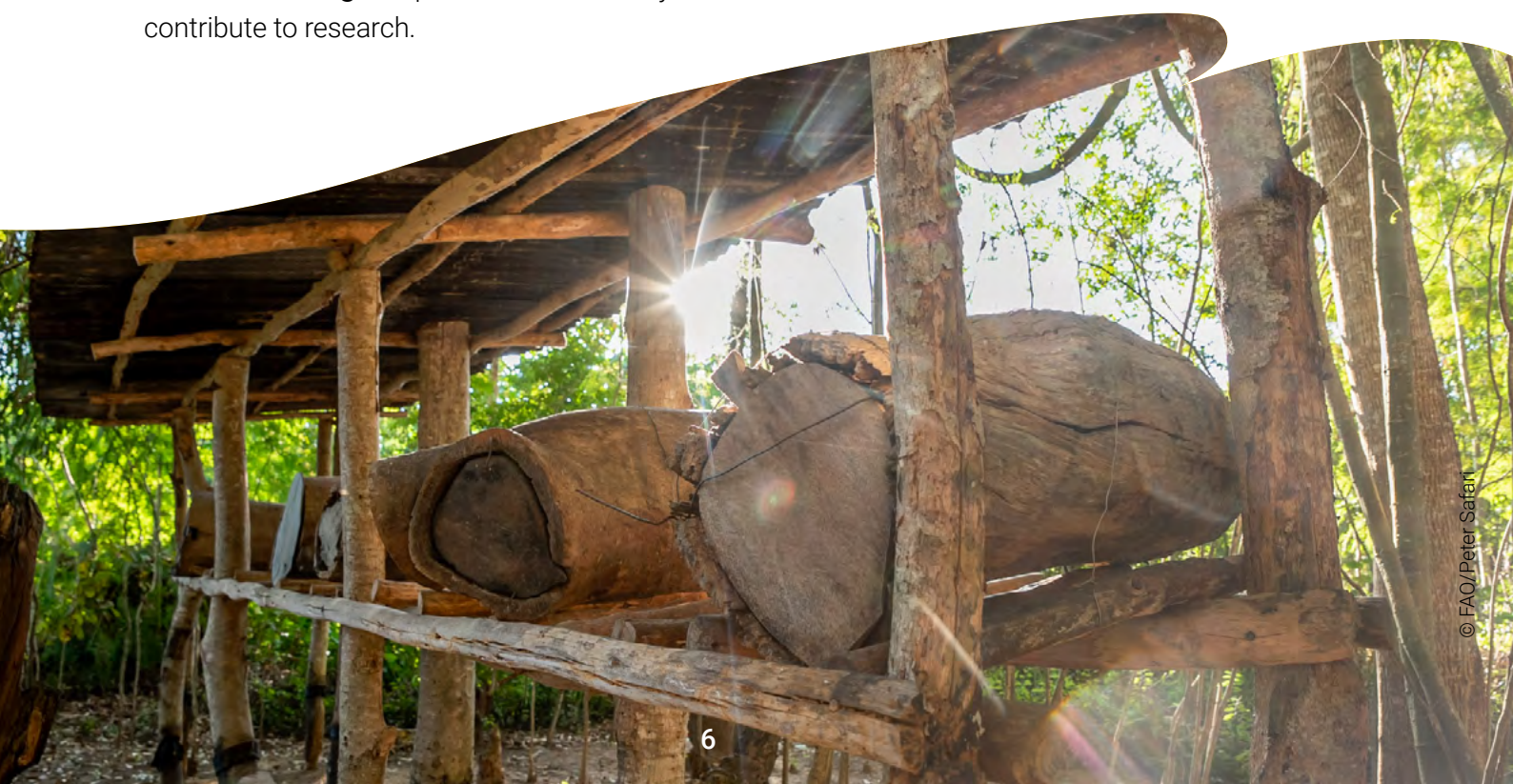
Turn gardens, balconies and terraces into **pollinator havens** by planting native, pollinator-friendly plants.

Youth

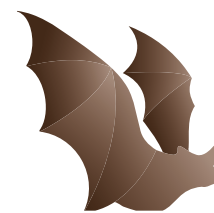
Form or join a **group** that engages in pollinator conservation in your community.

Enroll in **mentorship programmes** and seek guidance from experienced beekeepers to learn more about sustainable beekeeping practices.

Encourage your **friends and families** to help support pollinators.



How to participate



Get involved in one of the following ways and encourage your network to join as well!

Organize a World Bee Day event

Plan a **#WorldBeeDay event**, spread the word on your channels, and let us know about it by using the hashtag!

From online discussions to interactive workshops, public lectures or even quiz nights, there are countless ways to celebrate and advocate for bees and other pollinators. And don't forget to add your initiative to the interactive map available on the World Bee Day website to create a free, dedicated event page, by completing the online form.

Promotional material is available in several languages – from posters to designs for branded merchandise, videos and event banners.

Post a picture on social media

Celebrate World Bee Day by sharing photos of bees or pollinator-friendly actions on social media using the hashtag **#WorldBeeDay** and/or **#SavetheBees**.

Parks and gardens

Many of the plants and trees in the beautiful parks and gardens around the world would not exist without pollinators, making them an ideal venue for World Bee Day. Have a picnic, plant flowers or capture some buzzworthy moments.

Community or school initiatives

Start or join a community or school initiative to give residents and young people a chance to learn by doing. Spread the word on the benefits of pollinators and what healthy pollinators' habitats look like. Explain how adopting ecosystem friendly practices, such as enhanced plant or crop diversity and integrated pest management, can support the environment and help food security.





Honey tasting

Can you tell the difference between honeys produced by bees that 'visited' different plants? Try new types of honey or meet up with friends to have a sweet break.

Spread the word

Inform, educate and engage. Join the **#WorldBeeDay** campaign by sharing our free material with your network.

Improve your knowledge

[FAO's Global Action on Pollination Services for Sustainable Agriculture](#) has videos, publications, databases and details about initiatives related to bees and pollinators. Visit the [FAO Agroecology Knowledge Hub](#) to learn more about agroecological approaches that protect pollinators and their habitats.



Communication materials



Check the [FAO Digital Media Hub](#) or [Trello](#) for World Bee Day materials that can be downloaded and shared with your network.

Tag [@FAO](#) in your posts or one of the accounts below:

X: Main Corporate Accounts

- [@FAO](#)
- [@FAOLivestock](#)
- [@FAONews](#)
- [@FAOKnowledge](#)

X: Main language accounts

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Other products:

- [Stories](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Infographics](#)
- [Bee-inspired poems](#)
- [Flight of the Bumblebees - Composed by Michael Omer](#)
- [Bee quiz: What's the buzz about the bees?](#)



[#WorldBeeDay](#)
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