

**Plenary Statement by Dr. Anne Larigauderie, Executive Secretary of the
Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

**High-Level Segment of the 13th Conference of the Parties to the
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP13)
Roundtable on Agriculture
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Chair,
Excellencies,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), produces reports about the state of our knowledge on biodiversity to inform decision-making. It plays a role similar to that of IPCC for the UNFCCC.

Since 2014, IPBES has harnessed the knowledge of more than 1,300 experts from every region of the world. Our first report, on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production, reviewed more than 3,000 scientific publications and included indigenous and local knowledge.

Pollination fits perfectly with today's theme of mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for human wellbeing in the agricultural sector.

The IPBES report shows, in a nutshell, that agriculture:

1. Depends on pollinators;
2. Is responsible, through its practices, for some of the observed losses in pollinators; and therefore
3. Must play a major part in any solution to slow down the loss of pollinators in cultivated landscapes and to avoid economic, health and other negative impacts.

Interactions with Ministries of Agriculture on pollination are therefore vital.

Does Agriculture Depend on Pollinators?

The IPBES report shows that 75 per cent of the world's food crops (such as apples, coffee, sunflower and soybean) depend, at least in part, on animal pollination⁷ for their fertilization and thus crop production.

The annual economic value of global crops directly affected by pollinators is between \$235 billion and \$577 billion. The additional monetary output linked to pollination services accounts for 5 to 15 percent of total crop output in different UN regions. It is estimated that the volume of agricultural production dependent on animal pollination has increased by 300 per cent over the past 50 years.

How is Agriculture Related to the Loss of Pollinators?

IPBES has documented an overall decline in wild pollinators in both occurrence and diversity in North West Europe and North America, with trends expected to be similar in other regions but with less data available. The report also indicates that 16,5 per cent of vertebrate pollinators are threatened with global extinction, based on the IUCN Red List.

What can the Agricultural Sector Do?

A number of current intensive agricultural practices (such as high use of agrochemicals and intensive tillage) threaten pollinators. Moving towards more sustainable agriculture and reversing the simplification of agricultural landscapes are among the key strategic responses.

Various complementary approaches are suggested to safeguard pollinators in agro-ecosystems. They include:

1. Working with nature so that beneficial organisms, like pollinators, can help support production; for instance, by using insecticides and herbicides in ways that are more pollinator-friendly;
2. Enhancing the diversity of crops, farms, and non-cultivated habitats in the wider landscape;
3. Investing in ecological infrastructure by protecting, restoring and connecting patches of natural and semi-natural habitats throughout productive agricultural landscapes.