

Actions for pollinator conservation in CAP 2014-2020; the Austrian approach



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isabella.grandl@bmlrt.gv.at

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism

Schemes for promoting pollinators within the CAP 2014-2020

information actions & advisory services (art. 14 + 15) special advise: **obligate training on biodiversity in UBB (AECM)**; "farmers monitoring for plant and animal species in meadows", running since 2008

5% biodiversity flower areas within „Environmentally sound and biodiversity promoting farming (UBB)“ (AECM, art. 28) on **arable land / grassland**: no herbicides, no pesticides of fertilizers; min. 1 cut, max. 2 cuts/a; 5 hours training:
→ ca. 50.300 farmers

call / non-productive investments and studies (art. 20): 2019-2021; 15 projects: 2,3 m €, bees, **insect diversity**, reducing land consumption, habitat network, risk analysis & actions plans for insects; **projects on biodiversity**

conservation of landscape features within UBB (art. 28) & organic farming (art. 29)

no pesticide use (art. 28):

- restriction of yield-enhancing equipment
- no use of plant protection products in wine & hops

Studies and strategies

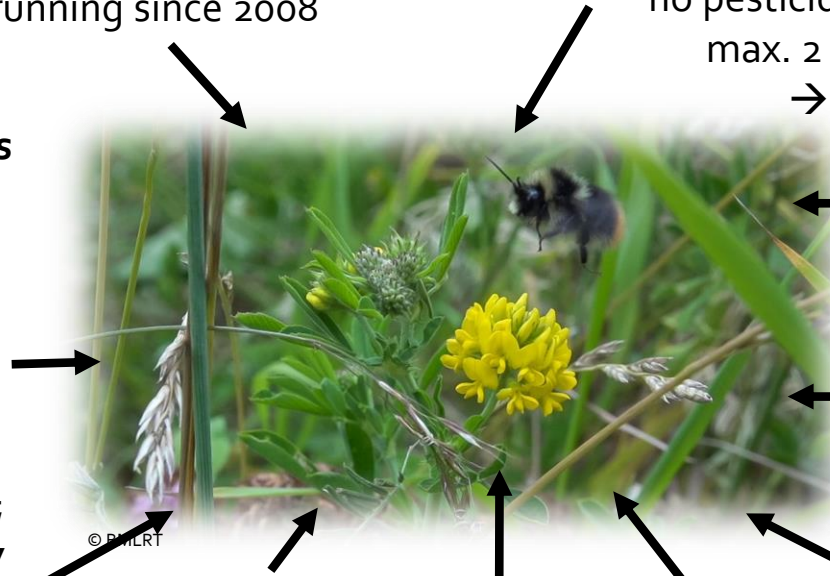
- bee future II
- BINATS II
- Biodiversity strategy 2030+

GAEC 7 landscape features; **EFA**: also bee-friendly fallow seed mixtures; since 2017

organic farming (art. 29): ca. 23.000 farmers

nature conservation (art. 28): specific requirements for environmentally valuable habitats: ca. 19.000 farmers

greening (art. 28): var. 1: at least 5 insect-pollinated plants



Lessons learned

- ✓ biodiversity flower areas of 5% on arable land show high effectiveness for butterflies: 4 times higher than on reference areas → potential for increasing
- ✓ necessity for redesigning biodiversity flower areas on grassland (no significant difference between biodiversity flower areas on grassland and on reference areas)
- ✓ with regard to biodiversity, organic areas turned out not to be “green per definition” (only slight differences between organic and conventional area)
- ✓ surroundings of biodiversity flower areas (e.g. landscape features) are significantly relevant for the number of species on arable land (nesting habitats, food sources)
- ✓ even spread of biodiversity flower areas on agricultural land (% on each parcel, more cooperative and regional approaches)
- ✓ halved sowing density on field edges for providing sunlit small-scale structures
- ✓ improved seed mixtures for greening, consisting of at least 4 different insect-pollinated plants from different plant families
- ✓ stronger focus on supporting training actions (information & advisory services)

Sources:

Holzer T., Zuna-Kratky T. & Bieringer G. (2019): „Evaluation study of RD measures for butterflies and locusts as indicators for biodiversity“ (in German language), commissioned by BMLRT.
Pascher K., Hainz-Renetzeder C., Sachslehner L., Frank T., Pachinger B. (2019): „Recording Biodiversity in Austrian arable land regions with the indicators landscape structure, vascular plants, locusts, butterflies and wild bees“ (in German language), commissioned by BMLRT and BMSGPK.

Tackling the problem of pollinator decline in CAP post 2020

Prioritizing objectives

taking account of the different requirements of pollinators, farmland birds and animals as well as different stakeholder-claims

Providing continuity

focusing on and improving the existing measures on promoting pollinators

Awareness building and mind-set change

providing information about the importance of ecological management methods

Communicating environmental objectives

e.g. conservation of landscape features in CAP 2015: removal of landscape features because of lack of information/fear of sanctions

Result-Based Payments

enabling different cutting times and operations more tailored to the specific needs of an area

Balanced decision making

finding the right balance between broad measures (detailed fixed requirements) and specific, regional measures (higher requirements, more flexibility)

Flexibility of open calls for non-productive investments

using the expertise of qualified applicants and responding to specific needs with thematic calls