

Special Issue

Honey Bees and Wild Pollinators in Agricultural Ecosystems

Message from the Guest Editors

As is well known, bees are the most important group of pollinators in the world and are essential to both agricultural productivity and the health of natural ecosystems. However, the survival of honey bee colonies and bees in general is currently under pressure. Climate change, anthropization and related urbanization, land use and habitat fragmentation, pesticides, environmental pollutants and exotic pathogens are the main risk factors undermining the health of pollinators. In addition, a growing body of research is documenting the spread of various pathogens among breeding and wild bee species. These elements make ecosystems increasingly inhospitable to pollinating insects. Understanding how interactions between different environmental factors, management techniques, pathogens and pests can affect the health of honey bees and native bees would help implement a framework of sustainable beekeeping and agricultural practices to ensure the survival of bee populations. The goal of this Special Issue is to gather research on current and potential threats to managed bees and native pollinators, as well as possible remedies to counter their impact on bee survival.

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