

Farming with Alternative Pollinators: Integrated Pollinator Habitat for Sustainable Agriculture



Boost yields. Protect biodiversity. Increase profits.

Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP) is a production approach that integrates commercially valuable flowering plants into agricultural fields alongside the main crop. It provides a practical framework for managing pollinator habitats and creating additional market opportunities from habitat plants.



Science for resilient livelihoods in dry areas

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

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Technology from

[PRMS](#)

Commodities

Melon, Vegetable crop

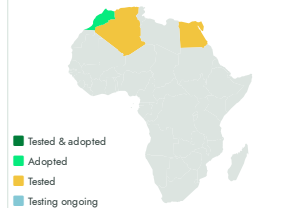
Sustainable Development Goals



Categories

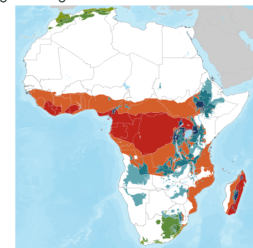
Production, Practices,
Integrated pest management

Tested/adopted in



Where it can be used

This technology can be used in the colored agro-ecological zones.



Target groups

Farmers, Advisory and Extension Services

This technology is **pre-validated**.

8.7



Scaling readiness: idea maturity 8/9; level of use 7/9



Open source / open access

Problem

- Yield and quality losses caused by inadequate pollination (up to 90% productivity loss in highly pollinator-dependent crops).
- High production costs associated with pest pressure and pesticide use (64.8% fewer pests).
- Low profitability of conventional biodiversity measures by integrating marketable habitat plants into production systems.
- Insufficient pollinator habitats that limit crop performance.

Solution

- **Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP)** enables businesses to develop more productive, resilient, and sustainable agricultural value chains.
- **Increases farmer profitability**, generating an average 121% rise in net income and improving the reliability of supply from smallholder producers.
- **Improves crop performance** through enhanced pollination, with examples such as 54.3% more melon fruits compared to conventional systems.
- **Reduces production risks and input dependency** by promoting natural pest control, with 64.8% lower pest abundance observed in FAP fields.

Key points to design your business plan

- **Adopt FAP to increase farm profitability and resilience** through higher yields, diversified income, and reduced dependence on pesticides.
- **Use marketable habitat enhancement plants (MHEP) and pollinator-friendly farm management** to improve productivity while protecting biodiversity.
- **Access training and technical support from ICARDA and partners** to successfully implement and sustain the approach.

Inclusion assessment

12

8

12

Climate impact

4

1



Farming with Alternative Pollinators

<https://taat.africa/mtm>

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