# Farming with Alternative Pollinators: Integrated Pollinator Habitat for Sustainable Agriculture

Boost yields. Protect biodiversity. Increase profits.

Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP) is a biodiversity-based agricultural practice that integrates marketable flowering plants within crop fields to create pollinator-friendly production landscapes. It combines habitat enhancement plants, nesting support, and reduced pesticide use to promote ecological intensification and sustainable farming systems.

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

This technology is pre-validated.

8·7 Scaling readiness: idea maturity 8/9; level of use7/9

Inclusion assessment 12 8 12

Climate impact 4 1

## Problem

- Declining pollinator populations that threaten 75% of major food crops and ecosystem resilience.
- High pesticide dependency by strengthening natural pest control (64.8% fewer pests).
- The need to increase food production without expanding agricultural land.
- The high cost and limited scalability of subsidy-dependent pollinator conservation programmes.

## Solution

- **Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP)** offers a cost-effective nature-based solution to increase agricultural productivity, improve farmer incomes, and restore biodiversity.
- **Delivers measurable economic benefits**, with smallholders achieving an average 121% increase in net income per hectare while reducing dependence on public subsidies.
- **Strengthens food security** by improving yields of pollinator-dependent crops, which represent 75% of major global food crops.
- **Supports national biodiversity and climate commitments** by integrating pollinator conservation directly into productive farming systems.

## Key points to design your project

- **Integrate FAP into national agricultural and biodiversity programs** to increase food production, improve farmer incomes, and strengthen climate resilience.
- **Leverage extension services, farmer training, and strategic partnerships** to scale adoption nationwide.
- **Promote pollinator-friendly policies and technical support** to deliver sustainable productivity gains while advancing national SDG commitments.

IP

Open source / open access

Technology from

PRMS

Commodities

Melon, Vegetable crop

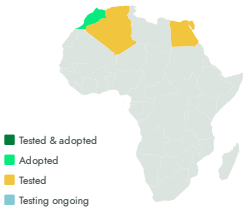
Sustainable Development Goals

Categories

Production, Practices,

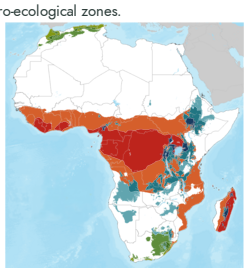
Integrated pest management

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