



BEEFORBIO

Project results

Exploratory project
2022-2023

Coordination

Florence Phocas
UMR GABI
florence.phocas@inrae.fr

Anne Lauvie
UMR SELMET
anne.lauvie@inrae.fr

Keywords

Honey bee
Selection objectives Resili-
ence
Varroa
Food self-sufficiency

Targeting selection objectives and beekeeping practices in organic farming

The aim of BEEFORBIO was to identify the diversity of breeding practices in organic and non-organic beekeeping (selection and management of bee genetic resources, diversity of individual practices, collective selection schemes). It particularly focused on selection carried out within beekeeping collectives.

Interviews with beekeepers (both organic and not) from four selection groups located in different regions in the south of France (19 interviews in 2022 and 21 in 2023) revealed a diversity of selection objectives. The main ones were honey production, food self-sufficiency, lack of aggression towards the beekeeper, health, and colony swarming. A national survey *via* an online questionnaire completed by 254 beekeepers confirmed this diversity. The main selection objectives cited by beekeepers were found among both organic and non-organic beekeepers. However, beekeepers rank them differently according to various characteristics linked to their production system, e.g., in relation to the organization of work or the generation of income.



INRAE units

GABI, Jouy

SELMET, Montpellier

A&E, Avignon

Partners

ITSAP

ADAPI Provence

ADA Occitanie

ADANA Nouvelle Aquitaine

Agri Bio Ardèche



@Flick

To develop a more formalized selection approach, the Bee For Bio project leaders held workshops with three groups of beekeepers. Each workshop resulted in the definition and prioritization of common selection objectives, the first step in a collective selection process. These objectives were linked to both production and adaptation issues (in particular, to the availability of floral resources and the presence of pathogens). The workshops thus provided food for thought for the co-design of collective selection schemes tailored to beekeepers' expectations and practices.

This project could be expanded in the future to explore how beekeepers' individual goals are linked to those of the collective and how collective exchanges influence individual practices.

METABIO



Contact METABIO
metabio@inrae.fr

