



SECTION 7 PRODUCTION DEPENDENT VARIABLES AND SAMPLING UNITS

Many variables have been used to assess the impact of pollination level on crop output. These include variables related to pistil characteristics (e.g. number of conspecific pollen grains per stigma, number of pollen tubes per style, and the proportion of fertilized ovules), to the initiation of fruits (e.g. fruit set and seed set), to agronomic yield expressed in weight or number of produce per unit area, and economic yield expressed as gross or net return per unit area in local currency.

7.A. AGRONOMIC YIELD

Yield variables are usually not available until a long lag time after flowering and many factors not related to the pollination level during flowering can interfere with the production output and thereby confound the effects of the pollinator treatment. Also yield data are not always easy to record. In particular, plants with indeterminate flowering may require repeated harvesting of the marketable produce over the whole production season (e.g. vegetables such as green bean *Phaseolus vulgaris* var. *vulgaris* L., eggplant *Solanum melongena* L., pepper *Capsicum annuum* var. *annuum* L.), tomato *Lycopersicon esculentum* var. *esculentum* Mill. and zucchini *Cucurbita pepo* L., and also some fruits such as mango *Mangifera indica* L. and strawberry *Fragaria ananassa* Duchesne ex Rozier). Also, for perennial crops, the harvest should be measured over two seasons to avoid the confounding effect of alternate bearing on different trees and orchards. Nonetheless, because the protocol is aimed at gathering data meaningful for farmers, despite their shortcomings yield variables will be the only ones considered here.

As indicated previously (Section 2), crop plants can compensate for pollen limitation with longer flowering periods and greater flower production. In addition, fruit set and seed set can be resource-limited, and thereby the results obtained by increasing pollination levels on a subset of



flowers on a plant may result in larger fruit and more seeds from those flowers, but not greater overall production on a plant basis (Knight *et al.* 2005). As a consequence of these two important mechanisms, **it is essential when considering agricultural output that the whole plant be used as the smallest sampling unit rather than individual flowers or a sample of flowers regardless how large**. Therefore, the proposed yield measurements are based on the whole plant as smallest sampling unit, that is the yield will be calculated on the basis of a sample of individual plants, a set of plots or the whole field. For each, the pros and cons are examined below. Those applying the protocol can select the best sampling units for their focal crop and study fields to measure the agronomic yield and the quality of the output, the only requirement being that the same sampling units be used in all study fields inasmuch as possible.

7.A.1 Individual plants

Pros and cons

- Natural yield unit from a farmer's standpoint (especially for trees).
- Biological unit, reflecting an integrated response to the treatment.
- Applicable in mixed cropping systems.
- Provides intrafield variability (usable with gradient within field).

- ← Needs plant density at harvest to calculate yield.
- ← Does not control for resource allocation between years unless recorded over several years.
- ← Not possible for some crops when plants are highly intermingled at harvest (buckwheat, rape).
- ← Variability among plants often very large.
- ← Mechanical harvest usually not possible except for some tree crops.

7.A.2 Recording plot (unit length of row or unit area of study field)

Pros and cons

- Useful when individual plants are too intermingled (buckwheat, rape).
- By recording plot size, results are directly expressed in yield units meaningful for farmers.
- Amenable to mechanical harvest.
- Provides intrafield variability (usable with gradient within field).

- ← May require more work than individual plants for harvesting.
- ← Not applicable in mixed cropping systems.

7.A.3 Whole study field

Pros and cons

- Data can often be obtained directly from farmer.
- Direct measurement of commercial yield over the whole study field.
- Meaningful for farmers and the public.
- ← Farmers may be reluctant to provide data.
- ← No measurement of intrafield variability (not usable for gradient within field).
- ← Between field variability can easily confound the link to pollination level (water availability; fertilizer; pest control).

From a practical standpoint, whenever possible, it is best to obtain the yield data from individual plants or from plots that are a given length of row (e.g. Aras *et al.* 1996, Vaissière *et al.* 1984). For instance, in a melon *Cucumis melo* L. field where it is difficult to distinguish plants, the yield plot could be taken as 2 meters of a row. The layout for such sampling units is presented in Figures 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 and some examples of data sheets to record such data are provided in Annexes 11 to 14. When individual plants are harvested as in mixed planting systems, it is best to harvest adjacent plants that are located in the same general area as the proposed plots (Figures 7.1 and 7.2). In general, it is best to harvest a minimum of 2 plants per plot (e.g. trees for orchard crops) and up to 10 plants or more per plots for herbaceous determinate crops. Produce should be harvested when fully mature and right before commercial harvest.

Once a produce is harvested, it may be possible to measure quality characteristics of all or a sample of the production units if time, budget and available technology permits. No special protocol will be provided here for these measurements as they will clearly vary from one crop to another, be a function of the analytical tools available locally for these analyses, and may also be context specific, that is dependent upon the requirements of a specific market. For example in Kenya, the pods of export-grade runner beans (*Phaseolus coccineus* L.) must be straight shaped and measure between 24 and 27 cm in length and anything smaller or beyond this range is considered a reject. Poor pollination leads to missing seeds resulting in sickle-shaped beans that are no longer acceptable for the export market.



Figure 7.1

LAYOUT OF YIELD PLOTS IN FIELD PLANTED WITH ROW CROP

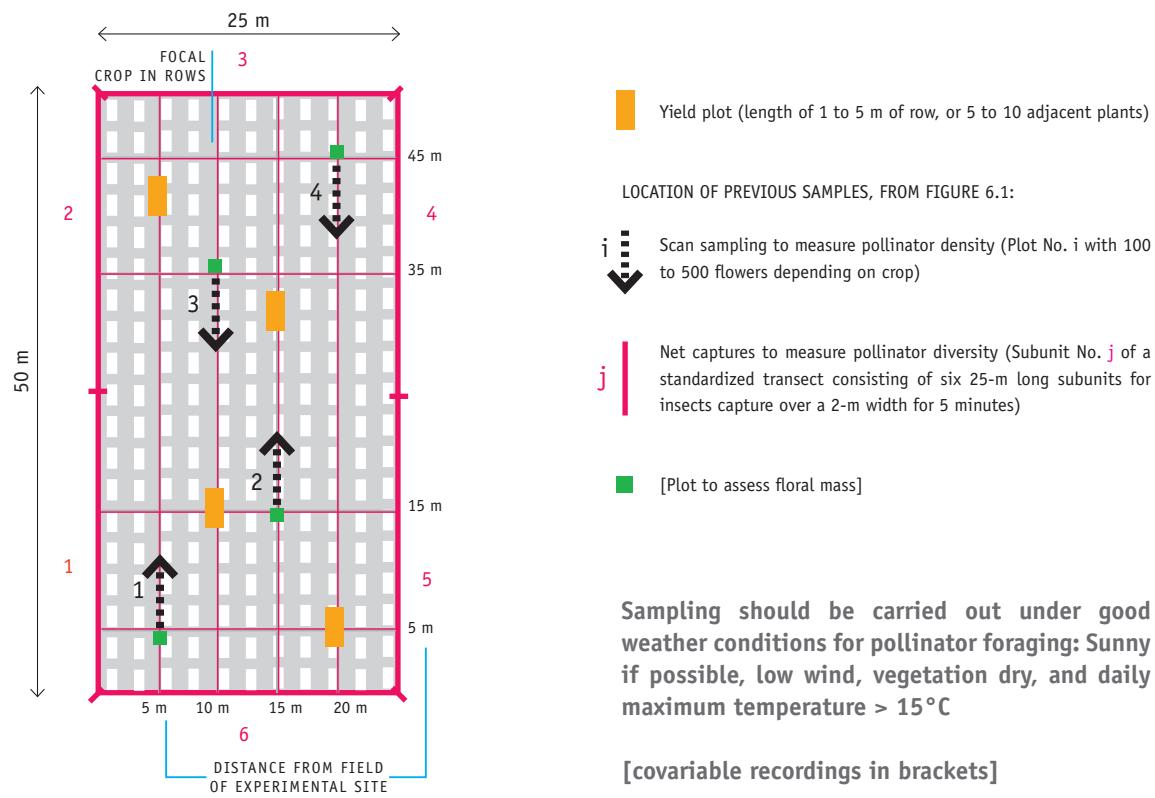
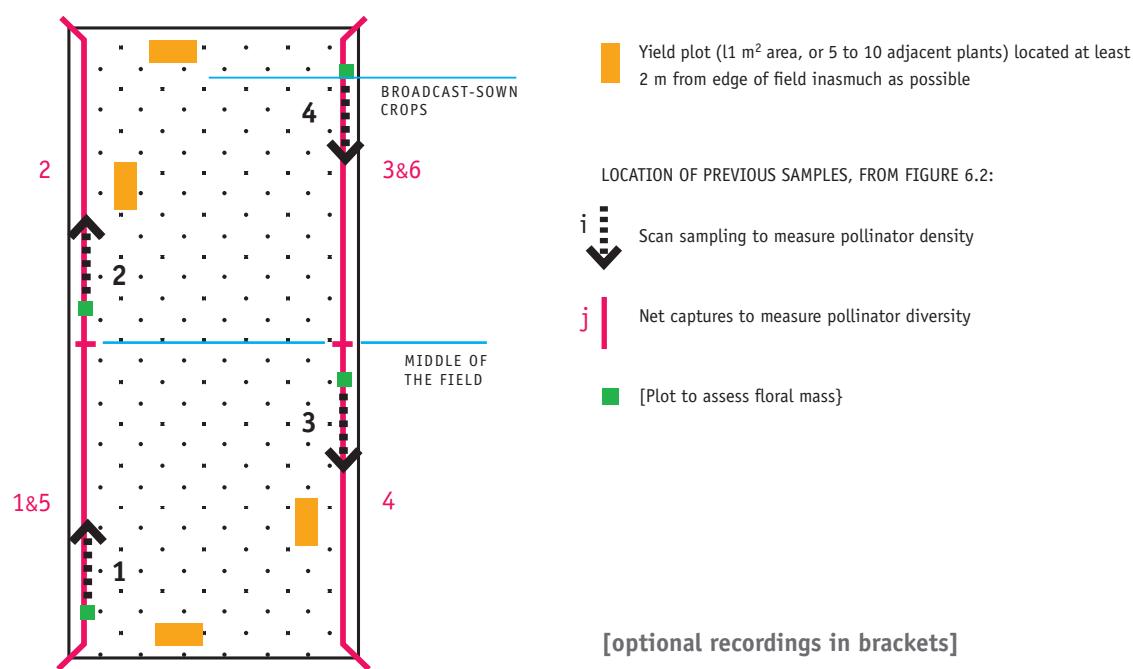


Figure 7.2

LAYOUT OF YIELD PLOTS IN SMALL FIELD WITH A BROADCAST-SOWN CROP (E.G. MUSTARD/RAPE OR BUCKWHEAT)



Examples of data on quality than can be recorded are:

- For fruit and vegetable crops: average size (e.g. diameter, circonference, shape, weight; Figures 1.4, 1.8, 7.4 and 7.5), number of filled seeds (e.g. apple; cucurbits), quality of the flesh consumed (sweetness, flavor; e.g. with tomato Hogendoorn *et al.* 2010).
- For nut crops: average size (e.g. diameter, circonference, weight).
- For oilseed crops: seed size, oil content, quality parameters of the oil (Barbier *et al.* 1967).
- For seed crops for planting: germination rate, quality parameters for seed industry (Kevan and Eisikowitch 1990).

7.B ECONOMIC YIELD

If the price paid to the producer per production unit is known, it may also be possible to assess the yield of each harvesting unit (plant, plot or field) in economic terms, that is expressed in local currency or an international standard.

Pros and cons

- ➔ Meaningful variable for farmers and consumers.
- ➔ Meaningful for government and policy makers.
- ➔ May assist farmers to record proper documentation.
- ➔ May also include non-market values, e.g. nutritional value.

- ⬅ Farmers may be unwilling to share the price at which they sold their crop.
- ⬅ Very context specific.
- ⬅ Can be very volatile from one season to the next.
- ⬅ Lack of accepted methodology (interdisciplinary).
- ⬅ Link to pollination deficit may be tenuous and difficult to establish.
- ⬅ Usually beyond the control of individual farmers.

If at all possible, the producer price should be obtained for the production of each study field so as to provide some input data for the economic analyses of the impact of adopting pollinator-friendly practices.



Figure 7.3

LAYOUT OF YIELD PLOTS IN AN ORCHARD WITHOUT POLLINIZER TREES

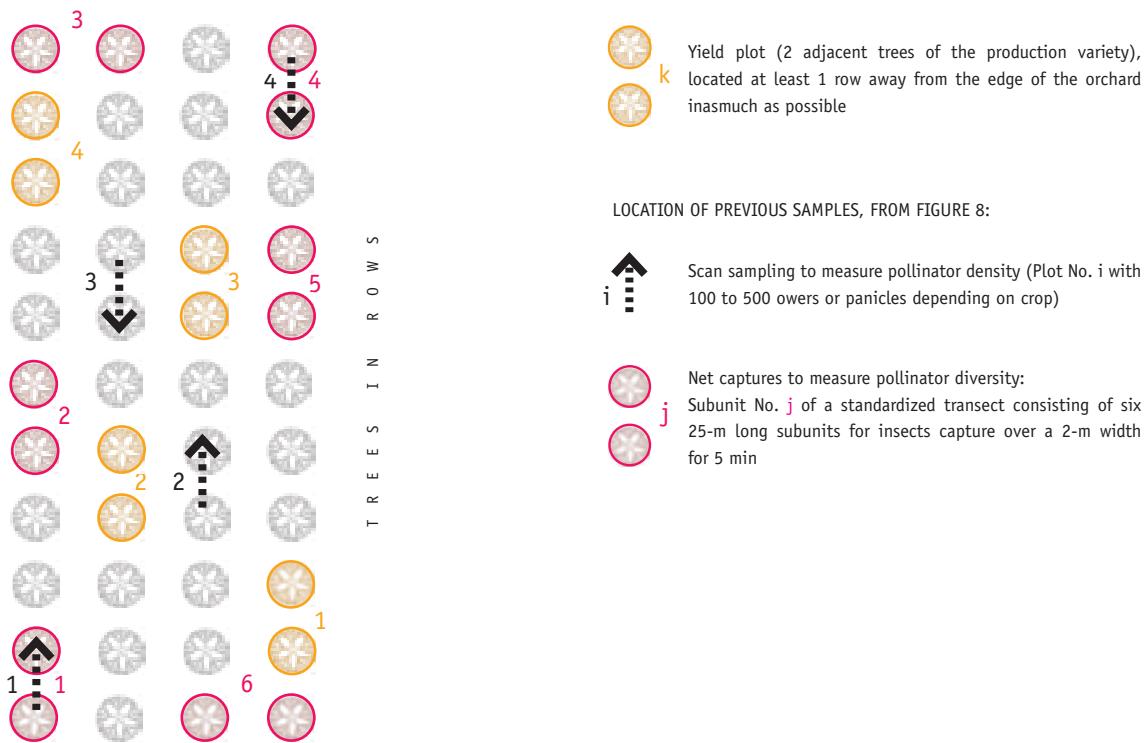


Figure 7.4

IMPACT OF POLLINATION LEVEL ON STRAWBERRY QUALITY



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Strawberries after open insect-pollination (left), passive self-pollination (center), and passive self-pollination plus 75 percent of the incident airborne pollen flow (right). Pollination can have a strong impact on agronomic yields and produce quality.

Figure 7.5

IMPACT OF POLLINATION ON MARKET VALUE

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Because adequate pollination has a direct and positive effect on fruit size, symmetry and overall appearance, it is especially important for small farmers who sell their produce at a road stand as here nearby Nairobi in Kenya.



SECTION 8 STATISTICAL ANALYSES

With a completely randomized design with one factor with two levels (e.g. Figure 3.2), control sites without introduced pollinators will have a factor value set at 0 while fields with introduced pollinators using a fixed stocking rate will have a factor value set at 1. The values of the dependent variables for the two groups will then be easily contrasted using usual one-way ANOVA procedures. When pairs or blocks of fields are used, similar methods can be used using adapted ANOVA procedures. When a factorial design is used for a combination of two treatments (e.g. Figure 3.3), a two-way ANOVA should be used so as to be able to test the effect of interaction between the two factors.

This will probably not be so with the distance to the closest patch of natural habitat or the proportion of natural habitat in a 2 km radius around each study field as those values are continuous and will probably vary from field to field along a gradient so that regression analyses may be more appropriate to analyze the results of the landscape treatments.

For large fields with a gradient of distances from the pollinator front, ANOVA with contrasts or regression methods should be used depending on the number of distances set from the pollinator front.

In all cases, it will also be of interest to look at the correlation between forager density and diversity on one hand and the yield variables on the other, as in Hoehn *et al.* (2008). This will be especially important in drawing appropriate management conclusions from the studies conducted using the proposed protocol.



SECTION 9 GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The present protocol was developed for use by the seven countries in the GEF/UNEP/FAO project on the “Conservation and Management of Pollinators for Sustainable Agriculture through an Ecosystem Approach”: Brazil, Ghana, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, and South Africa. It is by no means meant to be restricted to these countries. Indeed, this protocol has been developed so as to encompass the largest array of crops and situations possible. It is anticipated that it can be used over a wide range of crops and in many countries so that it becomes possible to better document the pollination situation for as many animal-pollinated crops as possible on a worldwide basis. It is therefore hoped that many people will find this protocol useful and will adopt it and share their experience with it in return and provide feedback so as to improve it.

This protocol can be downloaded for free on the web site at

<http://www.internationalpollinatorsinitiative.org/jsp/documents/documents.jsp>;

a discussion forum on the use of this protocol is available at

<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/spi/gppp/gppp-home/en>.

Finally, it should be stressed that this protocol is aimed to address pollination as a production factor at the farm scale level. As such, one should always remember that, as a production factor in its own right, pollination management needs to be fully integrated into the overall farm management system to optimize production in a holistic and sustainable way.



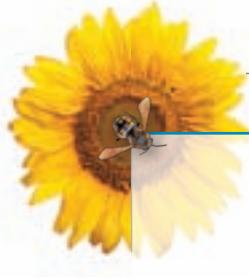
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ANNEX 1:
DATA SHEET TO RECORD MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDY FIELD

POLLINATION DEFICIT ASSESSMENT STUDY – FIELD CHARACTERISTICS

COUNTRY : _____	SITE : _____	YEAR : _____
FIELD NUMBER _____ COMMON NAME OF FOCAL CROP _____		
FIELD LOCATION & SURROUNDINGS		
TOPOGRAPHICAL SITUATION (HILL TOP, ON SLOPE, VALLEY BOTTOM, PLATEAU...)	(GPS COORDINATES)	LONGITUDE _____ LATITUDE _____ ALTITUDE (M) _____
TYPE OF HOLDING (SMALL FARMER OR LARGE FARM)	SOIL TYPE _____	
HEDGE SURROUNDING THE FIELD YES / NO		
DISTANCE OF FIELD TO CLOSEST PATCH OF NATURAL HABITAT (M. ; PATCH \approx 0.4 ha = 1 ACRE IN SURFACE)		
MAIN PLANT SPECIES IN THE HEDGE		
FIELD SIZE (HA OR ACRE) & APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
FOCAL CROP		
SPECIES SCIENTIFIC NAME	VARIETY POLLINIZER IF PRESENT (FRUIT TREES)	
PRODUCTION VARIETY	ORIGIN OF SEEDS OR SEEDLINGS (GRAFTED ?)	
CULTURAL PRACTICES		
PLANTING DATE	TYPE OF PLANTING ROWS / BROADCAST / RANDOM *	PLANTING DENSITY (# PLANTS OF THE FOCAL CROP /UNIT AREA) TYPE OF STAND MONOCULTURE / MIXED PLANTING*
RATIO OF POLLINIZER TREE / PRODUCTION TREE (FOR DIOECIOUS CROPS & FRUIT TREES)		DISTANCE BETWEEN ROWS (M) _____ DISTANCE AMONG PLANTS WITHIN ROWS (M) _____
SHEET NUMBER _____		

* CROSS ITEM THAT DOES NOT APPLY



**ANNEX 2:
DATA SHEET TO RECORD POLLINATOR DENSITY ON PLOTS OF AN HERBACEOUS CROP**

Density of insect pollinators in open pollinated flowers (scan sampling)

COUNTRY: BRAZIL SITE: PETROLINA

FOCUS CROP : CANTALOUPES (*Cucumis melo*)

Field number & size (ha)	TREATMENT	RECORDING CONDITIONS				NUMBER OF FLOWER VISITORS				Remarks	
		Date & observer	Recording number	Time at start	Period	Weather conditions	Hot flower number	Number flower observed	HONEY BEES	OTHER BEES	
									Apis mellifera	Bumble bees	other wild bees

scan sampling : the insect(s) must be present at the very time when the inside of the flower is first seen

* Indicated the number of colonies of *Anis mellifera* nearby the study field & whether these colonies were present or introduced at onset of flowering absent available

SHEET NUMBER _____

ANNEX 3:

DATA SHEET TO RECORD POLLINATOR DENSITY ON ORCHARD TREES IN PLOTS LOCATED ALONG A GRADIENT OF DISTANCES TO POLLINATOR FRONT

Density of insect pollinators in open pollinated flowers (scan sampling)									
COUNTRY: GHANA		SITE :		YEAR :		FOCUS CROP : MANGO (<i>Mangifera indica</i>)			
PRODUCTION VARIETY :	Orchard number & size (ha)	Location	TREATMENT	MEAN DISTANCE OF TREES IN EXPERIMENTAL PLOT TO POLLINATOR FRONT	Recording number	RECORDING CONDITIONS			
						Plot number (2 adjacent trees / plot) with ≥ 1 open flower surveyed	Number of inflorescences with ≥ 1 open flower surveyed	Plot number (2 adjacent trees / plot)	Weather conditions
1 to 5				0 ≈ Prior to colony introduction (if applicable), 1, 2, 3, 4	0800-1000 h, 1000-1200 h, 1200-1400 h, or 1400-1600 h	Sunny, overcast, or cloudy, wind level, instantaneous temperature if Afternoon	1 or 2 or 3 or 4	1	100
				60				2	100
				210				3	100
				360				4	100
				510				1	100
								2	100
								3	100
								4	100
								1	100
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SHEET NUMBER _____



ANNEX 4:

DATA SHEET TO RECORD POLLINATOR DENSITY ON PLOTS IN AN ORCHARD WITH POLLENIZER PLANTS

Density of insect pollinators in open pollinated flowers (scan sampling)

COUNTRY: INDIA

SITTE : MOHALI KULLU

FOCUS CROP : APPLE (*Malus x domestica*)

YEAR:

N E

TA
LL

Orchard number & size (ha)	Location	TREATMENT	Date & observer	Recording number	Time at start	Period	Weather conditions	Tree type*(2 adjacent trees / plot*)	Plot number	Number of open flowers surveyed	HONEY BEES	OTHER BEES	DRONE FLIES	OTHER	Remarks
											Apis cerana	Apis mellifera	Bumble bees	other wild bees	
1 to 10		Honey bee colonies brought or present or not		1, 2, 3, 4	1000–1230 h at 1330–1600 h	Morning or Afternoon	Sunny, overcast, wind level (instantaneous temperature if available)		1	250					scan sampling : the insect(s) must be present at the very time when the flower is first seen
		0 ≈ prior to colony introduction (if applicable)						pollenizer	1	250					
								production	2	250					
								pollenizer	2	250					
								production	3	250					
								pollenizer	3	250					
								production	4	250					
								pollenizer	4	250					
								production	1	250					
								pollenizer	1	250					
								production	2	250					
								pollenizer	2	250					
								production	3	250					
								pollenizer	3	250					
								production	4	250					
								pollenizer	4	250					

SHEET NUMBER _____

**ANNEX 5:
DATA SHEET TO RECORD POLLINATOR DENSITY IN THE ABSENCE OF PLOTS**

Density of insect pollinators in open pollinated flowers (scan sampling)

COUNTRY : NEPAL

SITE : CHITWAN, TERAI

YEAR:

NET

House	Pollinator treatment*	Date & observer	Recording number	RECORDING CONDITIONS			NUMBER OF FLOWER VISITORS				Remarks
				Time at start	Period	Weather conditions	HONEY BEES	OTHER BEES	OTHER (including drone flies and Syrphidae)		
							<i>Apis cerana</i>	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Bumble bees other wild bees		

scan sampling : the insect(s) must be present at the very time when the inside of the flower is first seen

ANSWER

1	2	3	4	100	100	100	100

SHEET NUMBER



ANNEX 6:

DATA SHEET TO RECORD POLLINATOR DIVERSITY IN PLOTS OF AN HERBACEOUS CROP

Diversity of non-*Apis* insect pollinators in open pollinated flowers (sweep net captures)

COUNTRY: INDIA

SITE : KOSI KATARMAL

FOCUS CROP : MUSTARD (*Brassica campestris*)

YEAR :

Field number & size (ha)	Location	TREATMENT	Date & observer	Recording number	TYPE (SPECIES) & NUMBER OF SPECIMENS PER TYPE						
					BEES OTHER THAN HONEY BEES		Bumble bees (<i>Bombus</i> spp.)	other wild bees	DRONE FLIES (Syrphidae)	OTHER	Remarks
Valley, mid-mountain, hill too				1, 2, 3, 4	1000–1200 h or 1400–1600 h	Morning or Afternoon	Sunny overcast, strong wind/instantaneous temperature (if available)	1, 2, ... 6	Flower visiting insects that are likely pollinators caught by sweep net over a 5 minute period along a 25 m transect within or along side the field with a total of 6 transects		
				0 ≈ prior to colony introduc- tion (if applica- ble)				1			
								2			
								3			
								4			
								5			
								6			
								1			
								2			
								3			
								4			
								5			
								6			

* Indicate the number of colonies of *Apis cerana* and/or *Apis mellifera* nearby the study field & whether these colonies were present or introduced at onset of flowering

SHEET NUMBER _____

ANNEX 7:

DATA SHEET TO RECORD POLLINATOR DIVERSITY ON PLOTS IN AN ORCHARD WITH POLLENIZER PLANTS**Diversity of non-*Apis* insect pollinators in open pollinated flowers (sweep net captures)**

COUNTRY: INDIA

SITE : MOHAL, KULLU

FOCUS CROP : APPLE (*Malus x domestica*)

YEAR :

Orchard number & size (ha)	Location	TREATMENT	Date & observer	Recording number	RECORDING CONDITIONS			TYPE (SPECIES) & NUMBER OF SPECIMENS PER TYPE				
					Time at start	Period	Weather conditions	Plot number (2 adjacent trees / plot*)	BEE OTHER THAN HONEY BEES	Bumble bees	other wild bees	DRONE FLIES (Syrphidae)
1 to 10	Honey bee colonies brought or present or not			1, 2, 3, 4 or 1330–1600 h	1000–1230 h	Morning or Afternoon	Sunny, overcast, strong wind (temperature if available)	1, 2, ... 6				

* Indicate the number of colonies of *Apis cerana* and/or *Apis mellifera* nearby the study orchard & whether these colonies were present or introduced at onset of flowering

Flower visiting insects that are likely pollinators caught by sweep net over a 5 minute period on 2 adjacent trees within experimental site or along side for small orchards; one recording of 5 min should focus on two pollinator trees (indicated in grey)

SHEET NUMBER _____



ANNEX 8:

DATA SHEET TO RECORD POLLINATOR DIVERSITY ON ORCHARD TREES IN PLOTS LOCATED ALONG A GRADIENT OF DISTANCES TO POLLINATOR FRONT

SHEET NUMBER _____

ANNEX 9:

DATA SHEET TO RECORD FLOWER DENSITY ON PLOTS OF AN HERBACEOUS CROP

Flower density (number of open flowers per unit area) & flowering phenology

COUNTRY: INDIA

SITE : KOSI KATARMAL

FOCUS CROP : BUCKWHEAT (*Fagopyrum esculentum*)

FOCUS CROP : BUCKWHEAT (*Fagopyrum esculentum*)

Mountain top to 10 honey bee colony nearby present / 1, 2, 3, 4

^a Indicate the number of colonies of *Apis mellifera* nearby the study field & whether these colonies were present or introduced at onset of flowering

SHEET NUMBER _____



**ANNEX 10:
DATA SHEET TO RECORD FLOWERING PHENOLOGY IN AN ORCHARD CROP WITH
POLLINIZER TREE**

COUNTRY: INDIA		SITE : MOHAL, KULLU		FOCUS CROP : APPLE (<i>Malus x domestica</i>)		YEAR :				
Orchard number & size (ha)	Location	TREATMENT	Date & observer	Recording number	Tree type*	Plot number (2 adjacent trees /plot*)	Branch number in each tree**	Total number of flower buds on branch (to be recorded only once at or prior to onset of bloom)	Number of opened flowers on branch	Remarks
Honey bee colony brought or not*					Indicate the variety	1, 2, 3, 4 or 4				
1 to 10					production	1	1			
					pollenizer	1	2			
					production	1	1			
					pollenizer	2	2			
0 ≈ prior to colony introduction (if applicable)					production	2	2			
					pollenizer	2	1			
					production	3	1			
					pollenizer	3	2			
					production	4	1			
					pollenizer	4	2			

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ANNEX 11:

DATA SHEET TO RECORD YIELD ON PLOTS OF AN HERBACEOUS CROP PLANTED IN ROWS AND IN MONOCULTURE

SHEET NUMBER _____



ANNEX 12:

**DATA SHEET TO RECORD YIELD OF INDIVIDUAL PLANTS OF AN HERBACEOUS CROP
ON PLOTS WITH MIXED PLANTING****Yield data**

COUNTRY: INDIA

SITE : KOSI KATARMAL

FOCUS CROP : MUSTARD (*Brassica campestris*)

YEAR :

Field number & size (ha)	Location	TREATMENT	Date harvest	plot number (0.5 m ² quadrat)	Number of plants harvestable in plot	YIELD COMPONENTS			Remarks
						Plant number	Number of pods per plant	Weight of seeds per plant	
1 to 10	Mountain top / Plaine	Honey bee colony nearby present/absent*		1		1	1	1	
						2	2	2	
						3	3	3	
						4	4	4	
						5	5	5	
						1	1	1	
						2	2	2	
						3	3	3	
						4	4	4	
						5	5	5	

* Indicate the number of colonies of *Apis cerana* and/or *Apis mellifera* nearby the study orchard & whether these colonies were present or introduced at onset of flowering

g / plant

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ANNEX 13:
DATA SHEET TO RECORD YIELD ON PLOTS OF AN ORCHARD CROP

COUNTRY: INDIA		SITE : MOHAL, KULLU		FOCUS CROP : APPLE (<i>Malus x domestica</i>)		YEAR :																			
Orchard number & size (ha)	Location	TREATMENT	Tree type*	Date harvest & observer	Plot number (2 adjacent trees / plot)	YIELD COMPONENTS		Remarks																	
						Number of fruits per tree	Weight of fruits per tree																		
1 to 10	Honey bee colony brought or not*	Indicate the variety	1 or 2 or 3 or 4					kg / tree																	
<small>* Indicate the number of colonies of <i>Apis cerana</i> and/or <i>Apis mellifera</i> nearby the study field & whether these colonies were present or introduced at onset of flowering</small>																									
<table border="1"> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Production variety</td> <td rowspan="2">1</td> <td rowspan="2">2</td> <td rowspan="2">1</td> <td rowspan="2">2</td> <td rowspan="2">1</td> <td rowspan="2">2</td> <td rowspan="2">1</td> <td rowspan="2">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>									Production variety	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
Production variety	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2																	
									1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2									

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ANNEX 14:

DATA SHEET TO RECORD YIELD ON ORCHARD TREES IN PLOTS LOCATED ALONG A GRADIENT OF DISTANCES TO POLLINATOR FRONT

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As a contribution to the International Pollinators Initiative, FAO and its partners have collaborated with INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, a public research body of the French government) to develop a protocol for assessing and detecting if a crop production system is suffering a pollination deficit. This document thus presents a handbook for the application of the protocol, outlining the underlying concepts, the hypothesis to be tested, and the modification and application of the protocol to a variety of circumstances in developing countries, such as small fields, home gardens, and high environmental variability.



GLOBAL ACTION ON **POLLINATION SERVICES** FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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www.fao.org/ag/AGP/default.htm
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