



Apimondia Newsletter | April 2025

Celebrating World Bee Day – 20 May

Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini, General Secretary of Apimondia

This year, World Bee Day will be officially celebrated on 20 May 2025 in Jimma Town, Ethiopia. The event marks a significant development in how the global beekeeping community observes this important day. For the first time, the international celebration will be hosted in a region where beekeeping is not only widespread but also a central livelihood activity.

The decision to host the event in Jimma is part of a broader and intentional strategy – supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – to rotate World Bee Day across continents and bring it closer to the local communities that form the backbone of the apicultural sector. Jimma represents this shift perfectly: a town deeply rooted in beekeeping traditions and rich in biodiversity.

Connecting beekeepers across the world

Beekeeping associations and cooperatives everywhere are strongly encouraged to organize their own local celebrations and connect with the international event. The global gathering in Jimma will be streamed online, and all are invited to take part by watching, sharing, and contributing. The official World Bee Day website, hosted by FAO, will provide streaming links and event information.

Theme and message of 2025

This year's theme, Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all, emphasizes the link between protecting ecosystems and ensuring healthy populations of pollinators. It is a call to action for sustainable practices that support bees, improve food security, and protect biodiversity in the face of mounting climate pressures.

The 2025 celebration promotes three central messages:

- Supporting sustainable beekeeping and protecting pollinators are essential for food security, rural livelihoods, and biodiversity.
- Nature offers sustainable solutions to balance human needs and environmental health.
- Strong multi-stakeholder partnerships are critical to driving global, regional, and national efforts to safeguard pollinators.

Programme overview

The celebration in Jimma will begin on the morning of 20 May with formal remarks by international representatives. Alongside these high-level discussions, a beekeeping fair and exhibition will be organized to showcase local apicultural products, techniques, and innovations.

The World Bee Day event will be followed by the 2nd International Forum for Action on Sustainable Beekeeping and Pollination, beginning the afternoon of 20 May and concluding on 22 May with a technical field visit. This follows the first successful edition held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and reflects FAO's commitment to a recurring, action-focused platform for international collaboration.

Forum Agenda

20 May

- Panel discussion Part I: The role of beekeeping in enhancing food security and promote livelihoods
- Panel discussion Part II: Towards international action, cooperation and exchange on pollinators

21 May

Topic: Towards a global work programme on pollinators and sustainable beekeeping

- Technical Session 1: Sustainable apiculture: Opportunities and challenges
- Technical Session 2: Protecting pollinators to protect our future
- The voice of young farmers

For more information on this event, please [visit the event website](#)

Apimondia's involvement

Apimondia is proud to be at the forefront of both events, contributing speakers from its Executive Council and offering organizational support in collaboration with FAO. Beyond World Bee Day, Apimondia's partnership with FAO includes work on honey quality and trade, regional workshops on biodiversity, standards development with Codex Alimentarius, and capacity-building in developing countries.

A global occasion rooted in local action

World Bee Day 2025 is a celebration of the beekeeping profession in all its diversity. It is an opportunity for beekeepers everywhere to come together – virtually and in person – to share experiences, raise awareness, and advocate for sustainable practices. Beekeeping associations play a central role in this collective movement.

Organize a World Bee Day celebration!

Peter Kozmus, Vice-president of Apimondia

World Bee Day on 20 May is an opportunity to come together to recognize the importance of bees and other pollinators to our environment, food security and biodiversity. As Apimondia members, you play a key role in raising public awareness and promoting sustainable practices that contribute to the conservation of bees and their habitats.

We invite you to use this important occasion to organize local events, workshops, lectures or other activities to help spread knowledge and respect for bees. You can organise also open days in your apiaries, work with educational institutions to raise awareness among young people or organize fairs and exhibitions to highlight the importance of bees and beekeeping products.

Apimondia will be happy to support your initiatives and help you promote your events through our channels. Your contributions will be key to spreading global awareness about the importance of bees and to promote the actions we need to take to protect them.

Let's stand together and make World Bee Day a high-profile event that will leave a lasting mark in the hearts of people around the world!

Apimondia Scandinavia 2025

The next congress newsletter will arrive in two weeks and bring updated news from the preparations of the Apimondia Congress in Copenhagen from the 23 to 27 September.

Deadline for early registration is 31 May

Until later this month, stay informed at www.apimondia2025.com there you will find a lot of information. Congress program, technical tours programs, information about accommodation. Have a look at the huge Apiexpo, with all the stands booked.

In Copenhagen prices for accommodation, restaurants, taxis are including all taxes as well as tips. Local transport by Metro is convenient with easy access between the Airport, the city and congress venue.

Next week the Local Organizing Committee with its working groups meet in Copenhagen to prepare the final details about the Global Honey Bar, the Scandinavian Honey Map, Global Honey Talks, Speakers Corner, more tours, receptions, entertainment and a lot more.

Join the BeeGuards Project: Become a citizen scientist

The BeeGuards project, an EU-funded initiative dedicated to enhancing the resilience of European beekeeping, is inviting citizen scientists and beekeepers to participate in its 2025 research activities. This collaborative effort aims to develop sustainable management practices, innovative breeding strategies, and digital tools to help the beekeeping sector adapt to environmental changes.

Opportunities for participation:

1. Wild pollinator monitoring: Citizen scientists can contribute to studying wild pollinators by collecting data on their activity and distribution. This information is vital for understanding pollinator health and developing conservation strategies.
2. Varroa control study with brood interruption: Beekeepers are invited to participate in research focusing on controlling the Varroa destructor mite through brood interruption techniques. This study seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of such methods in managing mite infestations and improving colony health.

To join these initiatives, interested individuals can register to receive more information and select their preferred language for communication. Registration is available through the [BeeGuards Citizen Science Application form](#).

For those seeking detailed protocols and guidelines, the BeeGuards project offers resources in multiple languages, including English, Italian, Spanish, and Greek. These materials can be accessed on the [BeeGuards Downloads page](#), with additional languages to be added in the future. The BeeGuards website also features a leaflet on *Tropilaelaps mercedesae*, an exotic mite recently detected in Europe. The leaflet provides essential information on the biology, distribution, prevention, and control options for this mite and is available in several languages.

By participating in the BeeGuards project, citizen scientists and beekeepers can play a crucial role in advancing research and implementing practices that promote the health and sustainability of bee populations across Europe.

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