

---

## **25th Anniversary of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators**

### **Written Statement from Dr Andrea Porro, Secretary General, World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)**

As we mark the 25th Anniversary of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators, the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) is pleased to join in celebrating this important milestone.

Farming and biodiversity are deeply connected — one cannot thrive without the other. Pollinators are at the heart of agriculture, supporting not only crop production but also the diversity and resilience of farming systems. Through their work and knowledge, farmers have shaped landscapes rich in agrobiodiversity, sustaining healthy soils, productive ecosystems, and the crops that feed communities around the world.

Pollinator diversity is essential in crop production, for both the quantity and quality of crop yield. Also, it plays an important role for environmental safety and human health, as well as cultural and aesthetic values among different cultures around the world. The decline of pollinators presents a significant direct threat to farming livelihoods, underlining the urgent need for action to protect these vital species and strengthen the resilience of agricultural systems.

Across its network, WFO highlights how farmers — including women and youth — are restoring and protecting biodiversity on the ground. One example is young Italian farmer Luca Bianchi, a participant in the WFO Gymnasium High-level Capacity Building Programme, who runs an organic farm where bees act as “ecological sentinels,” helping to enhance local biodiversity and environmental quality. His approach demonstrates how beekeeping can generate both environmental and economic value, strengthening sustainable food systems and rural livelihoods.<sup>1</sup>

Looking ahead, WFO reaffirms its commitment to working with governments, researchers, civil society, and the private sector to strengthen farmers' role in safeguarding biodiversity. Supporting farmers in this effort is essential — not only for current agricultural production, but for the health of the planet and future generations.<sup>2</sup>

WFO warmly congratulates the Convention on Biological Diversity on the 25th anniversary of the International Pollinators Initiative.

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: WFO, Case example: Young Beekeeper's Story: Nourishing Nature and Securing Livelihoods. <https://www.wfo-oma.org/blog/young-beekeepers-story-nourishing-nature-and-securing-livelihoods/>

<sup>2</sup> Reference document: WFO Policy on Nature and Biodiversity (June 2024). [https://wfo-oma.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/WFO-Biodiversity-Policy\\_2024-GA-Adopted.pdf](https://wfo-oma.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/WFO-Biodiversity-Policy_2024-GA-Adopted.pdf)