



25th anniversary of the International Pollinators Initiative

Written statement submission by Biovision Foundation

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Statement text:

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity's International Pollinators Initiative (IPI) which calls for the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators, we believe the initiative's important work is a key foundation for resilient agriculture and food systems.

Pollinators play a central role to the functioning of ecosystems and the preservation of biodiversity. They also have a major influence on food security as about 75% of global food crop species depend on pollinators like bees, butterflies, birds, and bats to move pollen between flowers so they can reproduce and be productive. Pollinator health reflects the vitality of agroecosystems, thriving where landscapes are diverse, pesticide use is minimal, and ecological functions are valued alongside yields.

In this context, alternatives to pesticides such as preventive and integrated pest management practices, crop diversity, combined with biopesticides as alternative curative solutions represent a critical pathway to protect pollinators while ensuring effective, low-toxicity pest management. This can help to shift agriculture away from chemical dependency toward systems that sustain both biodiversity, and notably pollinator populations, and productivity.

Biovision Foundation is committed to diversified farming systems based on agroecological approaches as a pathway to achieve the vision set by IPI's plan of action 2018-2030. We are also proud to support countries in Eastern Africa in transitioning away from unsustainable food systems, which among others endanger pollinator populations, to agroecological alternatives that help them thrive and strengthen food security. As part of this transition, we advocate for a diversified biopesticide sector that is embedded in systemic change and empowers farmers, SMEs, and local innovators (especially among youth). More information on this work can be found here: <https://www.biovision.ch/infopool/bioinputs/>