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BeeFarm – mapping resources for pollinators at the farm

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Wild bees are declining in Denmark as in the rest of Europe resulting in yield in-stability of insect pollinated crops and insufficient pollination of wild plants. In agricultural areas, farming practice and landscape structure affect wild bee populations and hence crop pollination and biodiversity.

Wild bees are dependent on the availability of resources in habitats for nesting, foraging and hibernation within a limited spatial range to complete their life cycle. Standard protocols for assessment of bee resources are scarce, and most of these are developed for scientific use.

The aim of the BeeFarm project is to develop a farmer's tool for assessing resources for bees at the farm. The tool includes a guided tour through the fields and semi-natural habitats of a farm, in order for the farmer to systematically assess the bee resources on the farm. During the project, the farmer's tool will be adjusted and improved to make the outcome comparable with an expert assessment of the food resources and nesting sites available at the farm. The tool is developed in collaboration with organic red clover seed producers and apple growers. The tool will make it possible for the farmers to identify resources, which are potentially limiting wild pollinator populations, and hence pinpoint what can be done in order to improve yield stability of insect pollinated crops and biodiversity at the farm.