



Together, we will set out to collect at least one million signatures for the European Citizens' Initiative "Save Bees and Farmers!" Get active now to support our fight for a better agricultural model in Europe!

## HOW YOU CAN HELP BEES AND FARMERS:



### EVERY SIGNATURE COUNTS!

#### Sign the European Citizens' Initiative:

On paper forms or online via [www.savebeesandfarmers.eu](http://www.savebeesandfarmers.eu)

You can download and share paper signature forms and find information material on our website:

[www.savebeesandfarmers.eu](http://www.savebeesandfarmers.eu)



## ABOUT US

We are a broad alliance of civil society organisations, grassroots movements, beekeepers organisations, local citizens' initiatives, farming groups and environmental scientists. Our alliance consists of the Aurelia Foundation, BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany), the European Professional Beekeepers' Association, Générations Futures, GLOBAL 2000, Friends of the Earth Europe, the Pesticide Action Network Europe, the Munich Environmental Institute and many more. Our aim is to create an agricultural landscape in Europe which enables bees and farmers to thrive in a healthy environment for the benefit of all. Together we want to collect at least one million signatures to save bees and farmers in Europe.

More info about our European Citizens' Initiative:

[www.savebeesandfarmers.eu](http://www.savebeesandfarmers.eu)



Organizing a European Citizens' Initiative is expensive. Support the ECI "Save Bees and Farmers" with your donation:

Donations account:

#### Aurelia Stiftung

IBAN: DE95 4306 0967 0778 8996 02

BIC: GENODEM1GLS

GLS Bank Bochum e.G

Publisher:

Save Bees and Farmers  
European Citizens' Initiative  
Schwanthaler Str. 81  
80336 München  
0049 89 21 54 31 32  
[info@savebeesandfarmers.eu](mailto:info@savebeesandfarmers.eu)  
[www.savebeesandfarmers.eu](http://www.savebeesandfarmers.eu)

Images:

© Lode Saidane  
© Denise Johnson | unsplash  
© Gerald Friedrich 2 | pixabay  
© Freestocks org | unsplash

October 2019



## SAVE BEES AND FARMERS European Citizens' Initiative

Towards a bee-friendly agriculture  
for a healthy environment



[www.savebeesandfarmers.eu](http://www.savebeesandfarmers.eu)



## EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE HAS COME TO A DEAD-END

The current agricultural model, due to its orientation towards ever higher yields through the use of agrochemicals has brought ecosystems to the brink of collapse. Every day, the biodiversity supporting our food systems is dwindling. The future of our food supply, our environment and our health are seriously threatened.

The consequences for nature are devastating; together with hedges and flowering meadows, bees, butterflies and other insects are disappearing from our landscapes. The songs of once widespread bird species have silenced. Streams and rivers are polluted, and every day the environment and consumers are exposed to a cocktail of pesticides. The existence of farmers themselves is also threatened by industrial agriculture: a farm is closing every 3 minutes in the EU. According to the motto Grow or Die, more and more agricultural land is concentrated on fewer and fewer farms, which in order to survive have to generate ever higher yields. Small farms often cannot feed a family. Together with them jobs and cultural traditions are disappearing from our rural areas.

## A DIFFERENT AGRICULTURAL MODEL IS POSSIBLE

There is, however, a way out: An agricultural system without agrochemicals is possible. It is an agriculture that preserves and enriches the invaluable diversity of landscapes, food and agricultural traditions in Europe. An agricultural model that ensures the livelihood of bees and farmers alike and that is healthier for people. With our ECI, we are committed to make this kind of agriculture the standard throughout Europe. In fact, 250,000 farms are already cultivating their land according to ecological standards without the use of synthetic pesticides in the EU.

### OUR DEMANDS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

#### 1) Phase-out synthetic pesticides

Gradually phase out synthetic pesticides in EU agriculture by 80% by 2030, starting with the most hazardous, to become 100% pesticide-free by 2035.

#### 2) Restore biodiversity

Restore natural ecosystems in agricultural areas and transform means of production in such a way that agriculture again contributes to the promotion of biodiversity.

#### 3) Support farmers in the transition

Reform agriculture by prioritising small scale, diverse and sustainable farming, supporting a rapid increase in agro-ecological and organic practices, and enabling independent farmer-based training and research into pesticide- and GMO-free farming.

## SUPPORT THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE!

The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) is a European democratic tool allowing citizens to influence European policies. If we reach the one million signatures threshold, the European Commission and the European Parliament are compelled to address our demands.

In the past, Europeans have successfully used ECIs to stop, among others, the privatisation of water, or to make the EU pesticide authorisation process more transparent.

Our initiative comes at the right moment: While EU institutions are negotiating the future of the post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), people are raising their voices to demand a different model of agriculture, a model that promotes biodiversity, protects climate and preserves smallholder farms. Our ECI can thus really make a difference: a paradigm shift towards an agriculture that preserves future generations.

