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Food Security Threat Hurts More Than A Bee Sting

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Problem & Background

• 68% of most produced monoculture crops dependent on bee pollination (Williams, 2010)
• $15 billion sector in U.S. economy (Smith, 2013)
• Managed honeybees: 60% decline since 1940s (Vanengelsdorp, 2009)
• Notable causes of collapses: Agrochemicals (Neonicotinoids) and habitat loss (Smith, 2013)
• Lack of awareness

Project Goals

• Increase awareness
• Increase research done on all species of bees native to the U.S
• Legislation pass to ban neonicotinoids by 2016
• Feed global population by 2050

Benefits

• Agriculture productivity, higher crop yield
• Sustainable Agriculture
• More hospitable and aware United States
• Notoriety
• Influences legislation proposed

Recommendations

Short Term (First Year):
• Have homeowners plant specific flowers

Long term:
• Agrochemical corporations to avoid using bee harmful pesticides
• Influence honeybee interest groups to focus on bumblebees as well

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References


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