



EIP AGRI Focus Group on bee health and sustainable beekeeping. 2nd meeting

8th – 9th October 2019
Bologna, Italy

Rationale and scope

Beekeeping as an economic activity plays an important role in sustainable development of rural areas: it creates jobs, supplies honey and other apiculture products and provides an essential ecosystem service via pollination. In this respect, it contributes to improving food security as well as maintaining the genetic diversity of plants.

Bee health and the economic and environmental sustainability of beekeeping is at risk and depends on many factors, including innovation in hive management, veterinary treatments of bees, reducing stressors where possible, diversification of apiculture products and adaptation to climatic variability. The Focus Group will look at examples of good practices and technologies to tackle the current and future challenges of beekeeping. It will also look at opportunities and barriers, identify knowledge gaps, and propose areas for future research.

The overarching **QUESTION** of the Focus Group is:

How to ensure the sustainability of beekeeping in the face of challenges linked to pests and diseases, intensification of agriculture and climate change?

In order to answer this, the Focus Group is expected to carry out the following tasks at this 2nd meeting:

- Identify remaining research needs from practice and propose possible directions for further research.
- Propose priorities for innovative actions by suggesting ideas for Operational Groups or other project formats to test solutions and opportunities and ways to exchange the practical knowledge gathered beyond the Focus Group.

Practical information

Venue: Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Agro-Alimentari -DISTAL-, viale Fanin 44, Bologna
Aula Mancini and Aula Baldoni

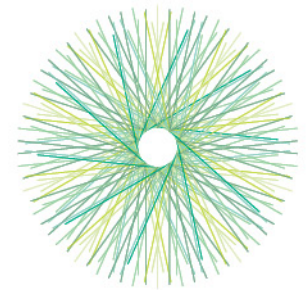
First day of the meeting (8th October) all participants are kindly requested to meet at **8:00 a.m. at the lobby** of the hotel, to be transferred to the meeting place. If you should have any problem to reach us in time, please contact Fabio, Bea or Eike.

Please come in the morning with all you may need for the fieldtrip. Right after the lunch at DISTAL we will departure for the fieldtrip and there won't be time to return to the hotel.



Day 1: Tuesday 8th October 2019

8:00	8:30	Meeting at the hotel lobby, transfer to the venue and registration
08:30	8:40	Welcoming words, scope and purpose of the meeting. Expectations from the Focus Group (FG) <i>Fabio Cossu (European Commission, DG AGRI)</i> <i>Giovanni Molari (DISTAL, Univ. Bologna)</i>
8:40	8:50	Introduction to agenda of the meeting and FG workflow <i>Beatriz Guimarey (Task Manager, EIP-AGRI Service Point)</i>
8:50	9:20	Presentation of mini-papers 1, 3, 4,5 <i>(FG experts)</i>
9:20	10:20	Open space for mini-papers 1, 3, 4,5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research needs from practice • Clarify and discuss last pending issues
10:20	10:50	Coffee break
10:50	11:15	Presentation of mini-papers 2, 6, 7 <i>(FG experts)</i>
11:15	12:15	Open space for mini-papers 2, 6, 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research needs from practice • Clarify and discuss last pending issues
12:15	12:30	Linking the work of the Focus Group with EIP Operational Groups <i>Fabio Cossu (European Commission, DG AGRI)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of EIP-AGRI Operational Groups - <i>DG AGRI</i>
12:30	14:00	Lunch at DISTAL



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14:00	19:30	<p>Fieldtrip <i>Hosted by Univ. Bologna - Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Agro-Alimentari -DISTAL- and Consorzio Nazionale Apicoltori (CONAPI)</i></p> <p>Activities (See the annex for a detailed program)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of NOMADI-App (Remote beehive monitoring, a new opportunity for nomadic beekeeping) • Visit to CONAPI (Consorzio Nazionale Apicoltori) • Round table "Emilia-Romagna contributions to bee health and sustainable beekeeping"
20:00	22:00	<p>Dinner (Fico, Osteria dei Borghi più belli d'Italia)</p>



Day 2: Wednesday 9th October 2019

8:15	8:30	Registration
8:30	8:35	Travel logistics and program of the second day <i>(Beatriz Guimarey, Eike Lepmets, EIP-AGRI Service Point)</i>
8:35	9:15	Overnight reflections and wrap up of research needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap-up from previous day • Report back to plenary of research needs and other findings
9:15	10:15	Breakout session: Developing ideas for Operational Groups
10:15	10:45	Coffee break
10:45	11:15	Reporting ideas for Operational Groups and other innovative projects
11:15	12:15	Follow up and dissemination of FG results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up steps • Key messages for the final report • Enhancing impact of the FG results
12:15	12:30	Conclusions of the meeting
12:30	13:30	Lunch at DISTAL and departure



Fieldtrip

The fieldtrip will consist on these three activities:

- Practical demonstration on an apiary of the Operational Group NOMADI-app
- Visit to the facilities of CONAPI (Consorzio Nazionale Apicoltori)
- Round table “Emilia-Romagna contributions to bee health and sustainable beekeeping”

NOMADI-APP (Remote beehive monitoring, a new opportunity for nomadic beekeeping)

The project Nomadi-App involves the construction of a regional monitoring network consisting of computerized apiaries, equipped with sensors, which collect the data from the hives. Hive data will be elaborated and integrated with other data, as meteorological forecasts, or data from the nectariferous species phenology, such as flowering times, to provide useful information for apiary management.

More info: Nuove Opportunità nel Monitoraggio A Distanza nell'Apicoltura Produttiva

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/nuove-opportunit%C3%A0-nel-monitoraggio-distanza>

CONAPI (Consorzio Nazionale Apicoltori)

CONAPI, the Italian National Consortium of Beekeepers, is the largest cooperative of beekeepers in Italy engaging over 600 beekeepers with about 100,000 hives. The members of the cooperative share facilities, knowledge and resources, covering the whole value chain from production in the apiary through to marketing and sale of the end product. CONAPI beekeepers work using only traditional, consolidated methods and devote great care to the health of bees following the strict specifications listed in the Internal Regulations they commit with. More info: <https://conapi.it/en/>

Round table “Emilia-Romagna contributions to bee health and sustainable beekeeping”

The round table will take place at CONAPI and in addition to the Focus Group members, it will count on representatives of CONAPI, researchers from the Univ. of Bologna and members of the regional government, all of them actively involved in activities with impact on bee health. The following interventions will serve as inspiration for the debate moderated by Roberta Centonze:

- Welcome and presentation of the beekeeping activity in CONAPI (Giorgio Baracani, Diego Pagani)
- Overview of the regional beekeeping regulations in Emilia-Romagna region (Vincenzo Di Salvo)
- Research activities on bee health and beekeeping at the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences (DISTAL), University of Bologna (Luca Fontanesi, Fabio Sgolastra). The speech will introduce, amongst others, the [BeeNet project](#) (the nationwide honeybee colony network), [NO-PROBLEMS project](#) (the use of probiotics to mitigate bee stressors) and the potential of eDNA as innovative tool to monitor biodiversity and authentication of honey and other bee products.
- BeePathNet project (Saveria Teston). BeePathNet links 6 European cities seeking to promote urban beekeeping. It addresses urban environmental, biodiversity and food self-sufficiency challenges linked to urban beekeeping <https://urbact.eu/beepathnet>
- NOMADI-APP (Michele Valleri and Giovanni Cecchi)