

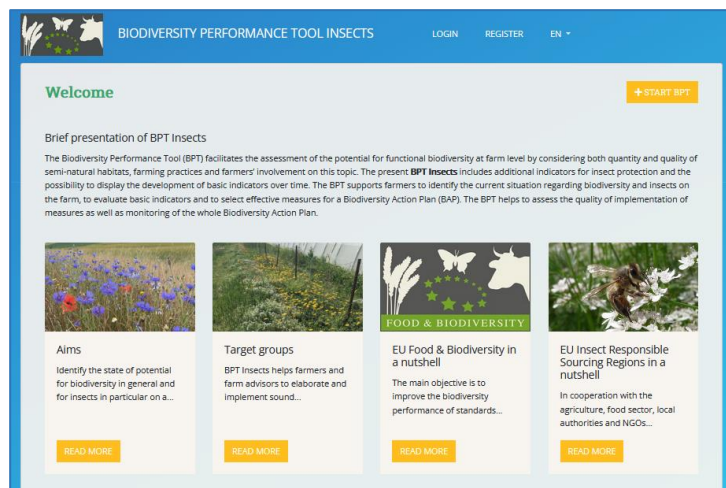


Biodiversity Performance Tool for improving biodiversity management on the farm

What is the Biodiversity Performance Tool (BPT)?

The Biodiversity Performance Tool (BPT) facilitates the assessment of the potential for functional biodiversity at farm level by considering both quantity and quality of natural and semi-natural habitats, farming practices and farmers' involvement on this topic.

The **Biodiversity Performance Tool Insects** is an improved version of the BPT including some indicators with relevance for insect protection and additional reporting options.



Aims of the BPT

- Description of the current situation regarding potential for biodiversity on a farm by answering a questionnaire collecting information on 79 key data and indicators. Basic assessment of strengths and weaknesses. Providing the basis for the elaboration of a sound Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).
- Quantification of types of semi-natural habitats at farm level
- Support for farmers on the elaboration of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) with effective measures to reduce impacts on biodiversity and preserve and promote biodiversity in the production system and beyond. The BAP considers the current socio-technical-economical context of the farm.
- Monitoring of the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan illustrating continuous improvement of biodiversity performance (or not).
- Raising farmers' awareness on the potential for biodiversity on the farm and how to use this potential for more biodiversity.
- Sensitization of actors of the whole food chain including quality and product manager as well as sourcing managers of food companies.

Target groups

The BPT helps farmers and farm advisors to elaborate and implement sound Biodiversity Action Plans which contribute substantially to a better biodiversity performance on farm level. The tool supports also auditors and certifiers of standards as well as product, quality and sourcing managers of food companies to better assess activities regarding conservation, restoration and management of biodiversity at farm level.



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How does it work?

The website of the BPT Insects is www.biodiversity-performance.org

Farmers and other authorized persons need to register to get access to the BPT database and to include and revise data about a farm. Data protection is secured. For the identification and evaluation of the baseline situation, about 100 questions need to be answered. In order to avoid irrelevant questions, various fade in /out are included.

Basic Indicators

Experience shows that farmers need approx. 3 – 4 hours to include all information requested for the baseline. Normally the farmer has most of the data at hand, because it is also needed for other purposes, e.g. applications for subsidies.

The information provided goes into 79 key data and indicators:

- 23 indicators on natural and semi-natural habitats and ecological structures
- 49 indicators on agricultural practises
- 7 indicators related to social issues

Farm summary			
Basic indicators			
Strengths and weaknesses			
Development over time			
Recommendations for Actions			
MAIN DOMAIN		CATEGORY	
All	All	RESET	
Basic indicator	Score	Result	Farm status
Proportion of SNH <small>Characterization of SNH Quantity of SNH</small>	●●●	21,9%	S > ou = 10% of UAA
Average distance between SNH <small>Characterization of SNH Diversity of SNH</small>	●●●	2	> 300m

For each, thresholds have been defined. Based on these thresholds, the BPT Insects evaluates all basic indicators according to a simple “traffic light system”: Red, orange, yellow and green.

These thresholds are also the basis for the **Report of strenghts and weaknesses** provided by the BPT Insects.

The evaluation of basic indicators as well as strenghts and weaknesses are valuable inputs for the farmer to elaborate a Biodiversity Action Plan and to select measures in order to achieve a continuous improvement regarding biodiversity management.

In the frame of the EU LIFE project “Insect Responsible Sourcing Regions”, effective measures to improve biodiversity and insect protection have been identified and described. The BPT report “Recommendations” leads users to the IRSR website to download the descriptions of measures which are currently available in German and in English.

More measures can be found on the website of Food & Biodiversity: <https://www.business-biodiversity.eu/en/biodiversity-training/advisors>

These descriptions are available in English, German, French, Spanish and Portugues.





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It is the farmer who decides which measures he wants to implement. The BPT Insects provides him with a good basis for decision-making. If the farmer regularly updates the data in BPT Insects and enters the results from the implemented measures, then the baseline changes accordingly and – hopefully – all indicators evaluated in red or yellow turn into green. This is a simple monitoring of the impacts of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

The BPT Insects elaborates also a report on **Development of basic indicators over time**. With this report, the farmer can proof the continuous improvement regarding biodiversity management: improvement of potential for biodiversity and reduction of negative impacts.

Basic indicator	Baseline Year 2012	Year 2020	Year 2022
Proportion of SNH <small>Characterization of SNH</small> <small>Quantity of SNH</small>	5% < S < 10% of UAA Score: 2	S > ou = 10% of UAA Score: 3	S > ou = 10% of UAA Score: 3
Average distance between SNH <small>Characterization of SNH</small> <small>Diversity of SNH</small>	100 - 300 m Score: 2	< 100m Score: 3	> 300m Score: 1
Diversity of type of SNH <small>Characterization of SNH</small> <small>Diversity of SNH</small>	>=5 types of semi-natural habitats Score: 4	3-4 types of semi-natural habitats Score: 3	0-1 type of semi-natural habitats (1 type is considered if it represents at least 1% of SNH) Score: 1

Scope of the BPT

The original BPT is applicable in 4 European climate zones und for different types of farms: Arable farming, animal husbandry (dairy cattle and meat production), grasslands, permanent production (e.g. fruit growing, olives) and vegetable production.

During the last years, the BPT has been adapted to spices production in India, coffee cultivation in South America (BPT Café) and in Vietnam (BPT Coffee) and to banana and pineapple production in Costa Rica and in Dominican Republic (Biodiversity Check Agrícola). These adapted tools are currently available as Excel-tools. The consortium partners are confident that further versions of the BPT will be developed.

Members of the association Food for Biodiversity as well as actors in “Insect Responsible Sourcing Regions” can use the BPT Insects free of charge. Other users need to pay a small user fee.

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Insect Responsible Sourcing Regions