

November 26, 2013 



**Today you have a great opportunity to save honeybees:** [Vote for agrochemical that kill bees to help to win Syngenta , Bayer and BASF the " Worst Prize" of the Public Eye Award.](#) [Syngenta , Bayer and BASF are agrochemical giants that produce and sell pesticides which are highly toxic to bees and to other pollinators.](#)

Sales of some of these pesticides have been suspended in Europe since 2013. However, the agrochemicals keep denying the impact of their products on bees and ecosystems.

[Vote for Syngenta , Bayer and BASF nomination to Save the Bees and Agriculture !](#)

[The Public Eye Award competition](#) is the most famous anti-awards series focused on corporate social responsibility . Since 2000, the Public Eye Awards have stood in contrast to the World Economic Forum annual meeting (WEF) in Davos .

All cases of environmental irresponsibility and human rights violations committed by companies are nominated by an independent jury and are well documented on the Public Eye Award website.

Read why Syngenta , Bayer and BASF are nominated.

Syngenta , Bayer and BASF have been nominated by Bee Life - European Beekeeping Coordination, with a coalition of about 50 organizations under the name of "Alliance to Save the Bees and Agriculture ."

Other nominations go to Eskom , FIFA, Gap, Gazprom , Glencore Xstrata eHSBC Marine Harvest .

## **Problem**

Syngenta, Bayer & BASF ("the bee-killers") are giant multinational companies that produce and sell highly toxic pesticides, which are mass-killing bees and other pollinators essential for the environment, agriculture and global food production.

The business with bee-killing pesticides generates a profit of thousands of million euros for the companies and is aimed at securing their control over the industrial system of food production. Some of these pesticides have been banned in Europe since 2013. However, the companies have largely denied that their pesticide business has negative impacts on bees and ecosystems. Instead, they turn to misleading advertisement, greenwashing, aggressive lobbying and pressuring of political institutions.

Syngenta, BASF and Bayer are suing the European Commission for having imposed a ban on their products to protect bees and agriculture in Europe.

### **Consequences**

Over the past years, beekeepers all over the world have been reporting a decline in bees with yearly bee colony losses of 20-50%. But bees and other pollinating insects play an essential role in ecosystems and the world could not likely survive a total bee collapse: Most plants and a third of our food depends on pollination by bees.

The economic value of bee-pollination is 265 billion Euros per year. With the decline of pollinators, food will become more expensive and less diverse. In a world without bees – who would pollinate our essential crop and wild plants? The bee collapse is a challenge to mankind on the scale of global warming, ocean acidification or nuclear devastation.

### **Causes**

Bee death is to a large extent linked to destructive agricultural practices. Newly developed pesticides by Syngenta, Bayer and BASF are more and more powerful. These pesticides can cause acute and chronic poisoning with deadly consequences for individual bees and entire colonies. In addition to pesticides, bees suffer from climate change, pathogens and a loss of biodiversity, availability of food and habitats caused by the increasingly monotonous industrial agricultural landscapes. Regardless of independent scientific evidence, beekeepers' claims and civil society's demands, the companies still promote these bee-killing pesticides. Syngenta, Bayer and BASF are simply trying to protect their profits.

However, this could well come at a cost to bees, the environment and human food security and sovereignty. The only solution is a shift away from destructive industrial agriculture to ecological farming.

### **Perpetrator**

Syngenta Crop Protection AG, Bayer CropScience AG and BASF SE ("Syngenta, Bayer, BASF") are giant multinational companies that sell pesticides, agro-chemicals, treated seeds and various other products, paving their way towards controlling the whole chain of food production.

Syngenta, headquartered in Basel, Switzerland reported sales of over US\$ 14bn and a net income of US\$ 1.9bn in 2012. In the same year, Bayer, headquartered in Leverkusen, Germany, showed sales of nearly € 40bn and a net income of € 2.4bn. BASF, headquartered in

Ludwigshafen, Germany, even reported sales amounting to € 78.7bn and a net income of € 9bn in 2012.

### **Chief Executive Officers (CEO)**

- Michael Mack, CEO of Syngenta, income 5.45 million dollars
- Marijn Dekkers, CEO of Bayer income of EUR 5.06 million
- Kurt Bock, CEO of BASF, income of EUR 5.286 million

### **Sponsoring organization**

[Bee Life European Beekeeping Coordination \(www.bee-life.eu\)](http://www.bee-life.eu) is an association composed of European beekeeping and agricultural organisations. Bee Life's objective is to identify and solve problems related to environmental threats affecting pollinators, especially honey bees. Facing the dramatic decline in bees, Bee Life gives special attention to environmental threats linked to intensive agriculture. Bee Life has recently established an international alliance together with more than 45 beekeepers organisations, farmers associations, research institutes, citizen rights and environmental organisations called the "Alliance to Save the Bees and Agriculture".

### **"Alliance to Save the Bees and Agriculture":**

Fédération des apiculteurs de Belgique (FAB-BBF)  
Fédération Française des Apiculteurs Professionnels (FFAP)  
Fédération Nationale des Organisations Sanitaires Apicoles Départementales (FNOSAD)  
Fédération des unions d'apiculteurs du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg (FUAL)  
Syndicat National d'Apiculture (SNA)  
European Professional Beekeepers Association (EPBA)  
Union Nationale de l'Apiculture Française (UNAF)  
Deutscher Berufs und Erwerbs Imker Bund (DBIB)  
Unione Nazionale Associazioni Apicoltori Italiani (Unaapi)  
Confédération Paysanne  
Asociación Galega de Apicultura (AGA)  
Gemeinschaft der europäischen Buckfastimker (GdeB)  
Fundación Amigos de las Abejas  
ÖÖ Landesverband für Bienenzucht  
Österreichischer Erwerbsimkerbund  
Associazione Italiana per l'Agricoltura Biologica (AIAB)  
Biocoop  
Demeter Schweiz  
Fondazione Italiana per la Ricerca in Agricoltura Biologica e Biodinamica (FIRAB)

Unio de Llauradors i Ramaders del Pais Valencia  
ARC2020  
BugLife  
Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz (BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany)  
Coalition against BAYER-dangers (CBG)  
Confederación de Ecologistas en Acción  
Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)  
Environmental Justice Foundation  
European Environmental Bureau  
Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament  
Génération FuturesGlobal2000 (Friends of the Earth Austria)  
Greenpeace  
Friends of the Earth Europe  
Friends of the Earth EWNI (England Wales and Northern Ireland)  
Fundación Global Nature  
Lagambiente  
Pesticide Action Network Asiapasific  
Pesticide Action Network Europe  
Pesticide Action Network Northamerica  
Pesticide Action Network Germany  
Pesticide Action Network UK  
Slow Food  
Soil Association  
SumOfUs  
Védegylet (Protect the Future)