

Introduction to this DVD

Both Educators for High School level or College/University level and Facilitators who make use of film in workshop sessions will benefit from this DVD.

Background to pollination and honeybees

90% of the world's flowering plants require pollination by a pollinator, which is most often an insect, but sometimes birds, bats, lizards or rodents. Insect pollination is essential for 35% of global food production, so you can thank an insect pollinator for one out of every three bites of food you eat! These foods are mostly the fruits and vegetables we rely on for a healthy and balanced diet. A world without insect pollinators would mean a world of far fewer food choices, more expensive food, and vastly different agriculture.

Pollinators are very diverse, but in terms of many South African crops honeybees are the most important pollinators because they are indigenous (naturally found here) and they can be managed in the huge numbers needed to supply the pollination service to our large-scale commercial crops. Beekeepers supply the pollination service to farmers, as well as harvest the honey from the bees to bottle and sell.

Honeybees are under stress from pests and diseases, chemicals and pollution, a scarcity of forage resources to keep colonies healthy year-round, and from being over-worked during the pollination season through being moved large distances in short timeframes. Some of the stresses that affect honeybees also impact other wild insect pollinators, and hopefully any efforts we make at protecting the honeybee will also help protect our wild insect pollinators.

Educators/Facilitators can utilise the materials on this DVD to help audiences (various levels) to:

- Understand some basic pollination biology and terminology.
- Understand the relationship: honeybees (+ their food) → crop pollination → our food.
- Understand that the honeybee can be managed by man (just like livestock or crops).
- Understand that we need to assist the honeybee and some ideas of how to take action.

The materials on this DVD include:

1. Film clip (17 minute clip for use in any classroom or workshop situation).
2. Facilitators' Guide (a guide for using this film in a facilitated session).
3. Educators' Toolkit, consisting of:
 - o Educators' Toolkit Instructions.
 - o Educators' Q&A.
 - o PowerPoint presentations:
 - Pollination biology.
 - Importance of honeybees and their relationship to our food.
 - Threats to honeybees.
 - o Activities on pollination and pollinators for various education levels, ranging from pollination biology, through the importance of honeybees to our food, to ideas for field studies (see contents page under the Activities section).
 - o Additional reading and materials:
 - Pollinators of South African Crops poster (PDF format, high resolution, ready to print).
 - Honeybee Forage InfoGraphic poster (PDF format, high resolution, ready to print).
 - Pollinators in Africa booklet (PDF format, ready to print).
 - Pollination deficits protocol handbook (PDF format, low resolution).

Note about copyright:

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