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<https://www.basf.com/en/company/sustainability/environment/resources-and-ecosystems/biodiversity-and-ecosystems.html>

BASF'S INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS IN *act4nature*

Preserving biodiversity is vital to the activities of BASF. To ensure its sustainable management, BASF France has chosen to position the challenges relating to biodiversity at the very heart of its sustainability policy, recognising the importance of natural capital and the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and continually optimising its production processes. Target is to improve energy efficiency, conserve resources and protect the climate whilst providing its customers with innovative products and services.

In France, BASF gives its support to five focus areas that relate to biodiversity:

- Systematic impact analysis
- Contribution through sustainable processes
- Development of solutions to preserve biodiversity
- The use of performance indicators
- Strengthening dialogue between all stakeholders.

A steering committee was launched in 2015 to implement this strategy in France. It brings together employees from different sites to promote interaction between teams and functions (HSE, R & D, Communication). It is coordinated by Sandrine Leblond - an expert in bees and biodiversity - and addresses biodiversity-related issues using a "value chain"-type approach: see Diagram 1.

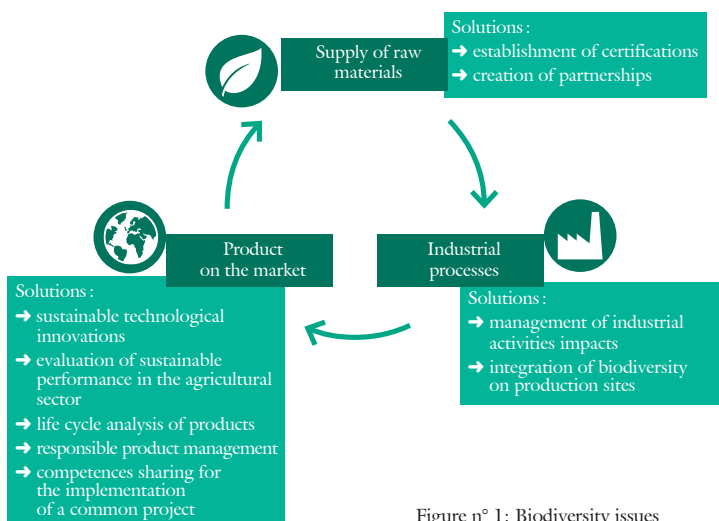


Figure n° 1: Biodiversity issues in BASF France

We have chosen to give examples of actions implemented by level⁽¹⁾.

Supply of raw materials

Action 1: Implementing certification start: 2011.

Palm oil is a key resource but involves important biodiversity issues. Since 2011, BASF has been working to ensure the traceability and RSPO⁽²⁾ certification of its supplies. The company is also engaged in an advanced dialogue with stakeholders through its PalmDialog⁽³⁾ initiative. Since 2017, BASF has been intensifying its efforts in its commitment to use sustainable palm oil with the publication of a status report: BASF Palm Progress Report⁽⁴⁾.

For example, the BASF Health & Care Products site at Boussens (31) has been sourcing certified 100% sustainable palm oil since 2017.

Manufacturing processes

Action 2: Taking account of biodiversity within manufacturing sites - start: 2015.

BASF embarked on a strategy to promote biodiversity on its sites in France according to the concept "Responsible production, preserved biodiversity".

Objectives:

- To contribute to the recognition and development of ordinary biodiversity by proposing practical actions measured over time using indicators.
- To improve its regional identity and relations with local partners by including external stakeholders in the project.
- To stimulate employee creativity through a federating project by creating project teams on the sites.
- To improve the working environment by developing facilities on sites.

Seven sites are already involved, and three are in the study phase.

This project is being set up according to a national methodology for which various tools have been designed, based on a methodological guide and a regional analysis, to move towards a project dashboard and report on results for each site.

In addition, a practical guide has been drawn up in the form of themed sheets (relevance of facilities to biodiversity and employees, costs, maintenance, follow-up protocols, reliable suppliers, safety rules and administrative procedures).

Four examples of projects on sites:

- A fauna and flora area to provide cover and shelter for biodiversity. Nesting and food for insects and animals (nesting boxes, beehives, flowers, differentiated management, natural lakes and dams), areas for employees (tables, edible berries etc.).
- Ensuring shelter for swallows on building facades. Cover and shelter (nesting boxes, suitable mixed flowering plants), raising awareness among employees.
- Facilities encouraging local animal and plant biodiversity by providing ecosystem services. Increased presence of plants used in BASF active ingredients, establishment of an orchard and nesting boxes through educational activities.
- The honey bee, a bio-indicator of site environmental quality.

The quality of the site's environment for bees and flowering plants to feed them (diversified, high quality pollen), raising awareness among employees.

Marketing of sustainable products and solutions

Action 3 : The BiodiversID programme in farms - start: 2011

Since 2011, the BiodiversID programme has provided support to encourage ordinary biodiversity in farms. Farmers and local stakeholders monitor biodiversity (honey bees and wild pollinators, birds etc.). Raising awareness of biodiversity-related issues posed by farming activities and jointly developing best farming and crop protection practice is core to the programme. Support and validation is provided by a range of partners and experts, and the best practice established in this way is incorporated into a European programme (BASF Farm Network)⁽⁵⁾.

Below is a summary of the activities and some results of the BiodiversID programme.

Biodiversity analyses	Coordination with experts	Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality (habitats, practices) • Mapping and green infrastructure • Counts undertaken by farmers and experts • Recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training: pollinator counts, soil quality, beneficial insects etc. • Technical days: apicultural set-aside, hedges, differentiated management etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forums • Computer graphics, results, themed files

36,474 pollinators monitored since 2012	Bird counts on 12 farms	Monitoring of beneficial insects on 27 sites	Monitoring of soil quality
Monitoring of 12 beehives 30 automated scales	29 experts 13 themed networks	63 farmers	>75 600 people fed with produce from the farms

In March 2018, after consultation with the agricultural sectors, BASF made a recommendation on the reasonable use of its fungicides on rapeseed in order to preserve pollinators: https://www.agro.basf.fr/agroportal/fr/fr/cultures/le_colza/opticolza/protection_de_la_culture_et_des_abeilles.html

Did you know?

As part of its product development process, BASF is continuing its commitment to biocontrol⁽⁶⁾ and has set itself a target of 15% market share in biocontrol-based plant protection solutions by 2025.

(1) All actions and projects undertaken by BASF France are listed on 64 pages of the BASF 2017 Voluntary Commitment File.

(2) Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil.

(3) <https://www.basf.com/en/company/sustainability/responsible-partnering/palm-dialog.html>

(4) https://www.basf.com/documents/corp/en/sustainability/responsible-partnering/palm-dialog/BASF_Palm_Progress_Report_2016.pdf

(5) 2017 data.

(6) Biocontrol products are agents and products using natural mechanisms as part of the integrated fight against pests such as macro- and micro-organisms and pheromones (Article L.253-6 of the French Rural Code).