

Joint Technological Unit

The UMT is a partnership approved by French Ministry of Agriculture, which associates different groups of stakeholders in the agricultural development, working on research projects to facilitate transfer of operational tools to the farming sector.

The partners working in the beekeeping and agricultural development :

- ACTA, a technical institute in agriculture. ACTA studies the impact of agricultural practices on the honey bee: the definition of the toxicity of pesticides; the study of the availability of trophic resources within intensively farmed agricultural landscapes. The products of this work are new methods to assess pesticide risks and to enhance floral resources in agroecosystem.

- ITSAP, the French national institute for beekeeping development. It coordinates at national level the field assays on the honey bee and the innovation programs, constitutes an interface between professional needs and research, provides end-users with technical support to adapt beekeeping practices to new requirements.

- ADAPI, the regional association for beekeeping development. Member of ITSAP, ADAPI contributes to the development of the beekeeping in PACA region by technical and economic actions, like the management of honey certification. It realizes field assays on the control of varroa and on the colony losses.

The partners of research :

- Inra, the French national institute for agricultural research – Bees and Environment unit

This interdisciplinary research unit is dedicated to improving the understanding of process responsible for bee population declines and the effect plant biodiversity and farming sector. As a collaborative venture between 3 teams (biology and protection of the honeybee, environmental toxicology, pollination and ecology of bees), the unit coordinates a variety of research at all scales, from the genetic to the macroecology.

Objectives:

- to conciliate the problems coming from beekeepers, the search of innovations,
- to conceive technical solutions to fight against bee population declines,
- to constitute a source of validated and recognized information,
- to facilitate transfer of scientific results for end-users.

Domains of study:

- to improve characterization of the state of bee populations (wild and domestic),
- to improve knowledge of the incidence of the pollutants, the resource availability and the pest/pathogens,
- to develop a global approach by experimental and theoretical analyses.

Products:

- co-construction of evaluation methods, steering tools and systems of management in favour of the safeguarding of bees,
- development of process to facilitate the information diffusion in professional sectors.

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