



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Globally Important
**AGRICULTURAL
HERITAGE**
Systems

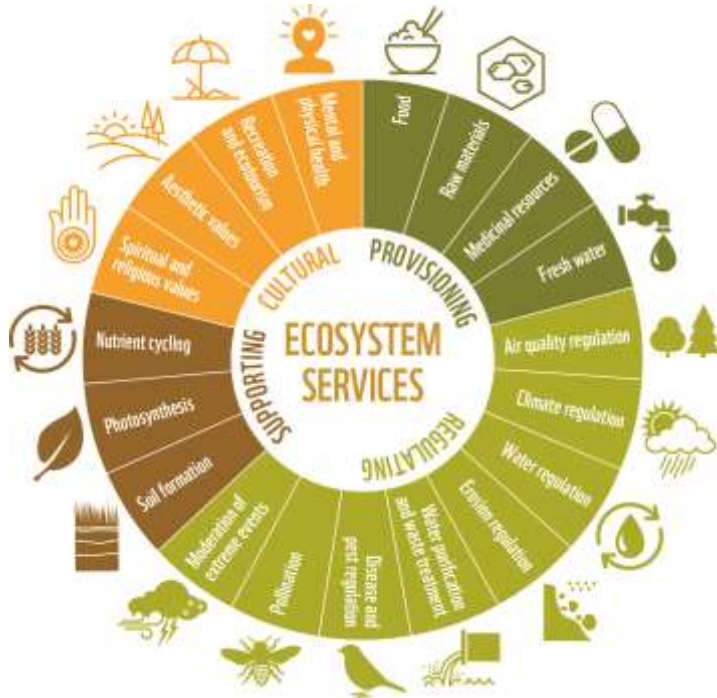


How safeguarding biodiversity and scientific
evaluation can add value to a product and its
territory

The Biodiversity Friend[®] standard

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Biodiversity is an ESSENTIAL VALUE for SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Farmers / Producers as custodians of the territory

The BIODIVERSITY FRIEND® standard

BIODIVERSITY FRIEND® is a protocol that certifies the sustainability of an agricultural activity by assessing the impact of the production process on the biodiversity of the production area

biodiversity



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The WBA “Decalogue of Sustainability” in agriculture:

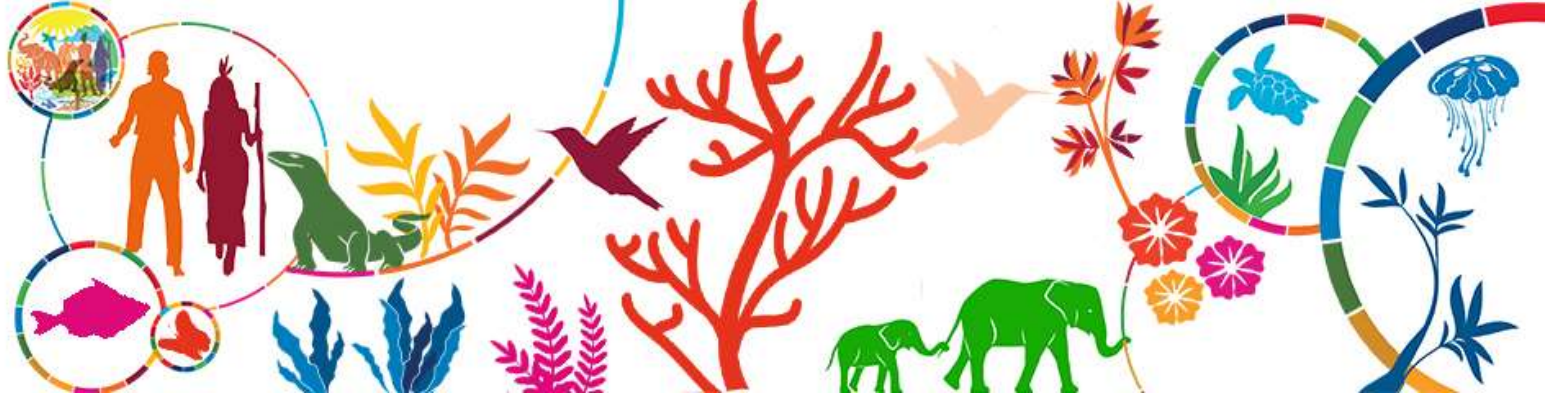


1. Sustainable cultivation model
2. Protection of soil fertility
3. Rational management of water resources
4. Protection of hedgerows, woods, meadows, nectar-rich species and natural formations
5. Protection of agricultural and structural biodiversity
6. Energy saving and the use of renewable sources
7. Protection of the local area and the rural landscape
8. Social sustainability
9. Economic sustainability
10. Soil, water and air quality (Biodiversity Friend biodiversity Indexes)

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BIODIVERSITY FRIEND® - Biodiversity Indexes

Biodiversity is extremely DIFFICULT
to QUANTIFY and to COMMUNICATE



Evaluation process that takes in consideration FRAMER'S NEEDS



SMART AND FUNCTIONAL INDEXES

Soil Biodiversity Index



Freshwater Biodiversity Index



Air Biodiversity Index



BIODIVERSITY FRIEND® is a **VOLUNTARY** standard aimed at vegetable-growing agricultural businesses (family farms, cooperatives, POs, large-scale retailers) who believe in sustainable agriculture both integrated into the landscape and with low environmental impact.



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beekeeping

biodiversity



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f o r e s t

Certification bodies



Integrated in:



Why? Perché?



BIODIVERSITY FRIEND® promotes and enhances sustainable agriculture respectful of biodiversity, of the territory and the communities living on it.

BIODIVERSITY FRIEND® allows farms and agricultural businesses to start a path of gradual improvement in the environmental performance of the agrosystem, guaranteeing the consumer HIGH quality products obtained from certified natural areas.

to identify **CRITICAL ISSUES** in biodiversity conservation

to suggest **COMPENSATORY** or **IMPROVEMENT** actions

to adequately **COMMUNICATE** the importance of protecting biodiversity

BIODIVERSITY is the **PLUS VALUE** to your product



BIODIVERSITY FRIEND® GUARANTEES THE PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY
IN AGRICULTURE



“High quality products from high quality territories”

For the producer:

- It is a tool to communicate your sustainable work
- It identifies / points out mitigation and improvement strategies
- It adds value to your products



biodiversity



For the consumer:

- Buying a BIODIVERSITY FRIEND® certified product is a guarantee of environmental sustainability





'Biodiversity Friend' farm certification

Description

The World Biodiversity Association is a not for profit organization founded in 2004 at the Museum of Natural History of Verona by a group of naturalists. The Association has two missions: "**Discovering biodiversity**", through naturalistic expeditions to the biodiversity hot-spots all over the world, and "**Conservation by education**" to confirm the fundamental role of education in the conservation of natural environments.

Since 2008 WBA is supported by a Scientific Committee and is the publishing house of the following series: "Memoirs on Biodiversity", "WBA Monographs" and "WBA Handbooks". The WBA supports the Biodiversity Project, by organizing the annual "Biodiversity Day" and by buying tens of hectares of tropical rainforest in Ecuador.

In the course of 2010, declared by United Nations "International Year of Biodiversity", the WBA proposed "Biodiversity Friend" the

When the farm get a score of 80 out of 100, no more improvement is needed. The "Biodiversity Friend" farms have been certified in Italy by CSQA, the Italian company leader in agri-food certification.

In 2010 "Biodiversity Friend" obtained the patronage of the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies of Italy. The brand "Biodiversity Friend" is exclusive property of the WBA and has been registered as an international trademark in Italy, European Union and China by the *World Intellectual Property Organization* of Madrid and in U.S.A. by the *United States Patent and Trademark Office*.

Benefits for business

The farms certified "Biodiversity Friend" give guarantees to the consumer that their products come from an agrosystem with a high level of naturality, with low impact processes. The application of the BF standard



Consumer testing of alternatives for communicating the Environmental Footprint profile of products

Final report

Consumer testing of alternatives for communicating the Environmental Footprint profile of products

– Final report –

Specific contract No.

070201/2018/790277/SFRA/ENV.B.1 under Framework contract No. CHAFEA/2015/CP/01, prepared by the Ipsos consortium





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Systems



**SOAVE
TRADITIONAL
VINEYARDS**

Soave Traditional Vineyards
Officially recognized by FAO as
a Globally Important Agricultural
Heritage Site

CONSORZIO DI TUTELA DEL SOAVE AND ITS COMMITMENT IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AS GIAHS SITE

INTEGRITÀ
 "Iniziativa Territoriale per la Gestione delle Risorse paesaggistiche e per la Tutela Ambientale"
 - Convegno finale -
Il Soave: da Paesaggio storico a Patrimonio

MERCOLEDÌ 5 FEBBRAIO 2020
 Accademia di Agricoltura, Scienza e Lettere
 Verona, ore 17.00
Presentazione dei risultati dello studio interdisciplinare realizzato per programmare la gestione del bene
 riconosciuto come patrimonio di valore globale dalla FAO nel programma GIAHS
 (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems)

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Soilution System
 Soluzioni innovative di sistema per la riduzione del rischio erosivo e una migliore gestione dei suoli in vigneti di collina e di montagna
Innovative solutions for soil erosion risk mitigation and a better management of vineyards in hills and mountain landscapes

BIODIVERSITY FRIEND® BEEKEEPING



1st Regional workshop for Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in Azerbaijan, Baku (30th September 2021)

Appeal for biodiversity protection of native honey bee subspecies of *Apis mellifera* in Italy (San Michele all'Adige declaration)

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¹⁸Beepi, Cultural Centre for Natural and Organic Beekeeping in Sansepolcro, Arezzo, Italy

Abstract

Honey bees are pollinators that play a key-role in plant biodiversity conservation and crop production. This unique insect species has been managed at large by beekeepers for millennia, even though such a peculiar mixed production system never resulted in the domestication of the western honey bee. The western honey bee was originally distributed throughout most of Europe, Africa, the Middle East, part of the Indian Peninsula and some parts of Central Asia. From Europe, the honey bee was introduced to America, Asia and Oceania. This adaptation to a range of environmental conditions, together with biological and climate changes in past time, has resulted in grouping of *Apis mellifera* into 21 subspecies. In the last 150 years, technological advances in beekeeping and globalisation have led to widespread commercialisation of a few subspecies of *A. mellifera* in Europe, with an impact on honey bee production and health status. Evaluation of the impact of this phenomenon on the ecological equilibrium is still ongoing, but there is already noticeable evidence of negative effects that this problem is having on beekeeping. This document sets forth the scientific arguments to support the conservation of native subspecies, and here the existing Italian legislation in terms of subspecies protection initiatives. It also lists the main factors that are contributing to loss of genetic diversity and of local adaptations. This document does not intend to oppose the activities of the beekeeping industry, but rather to contribute to a more global vision of the very various profiles of honey bee diversity.



Apis m. ligustica



Apis m. mellifera



Apis m. siciliana



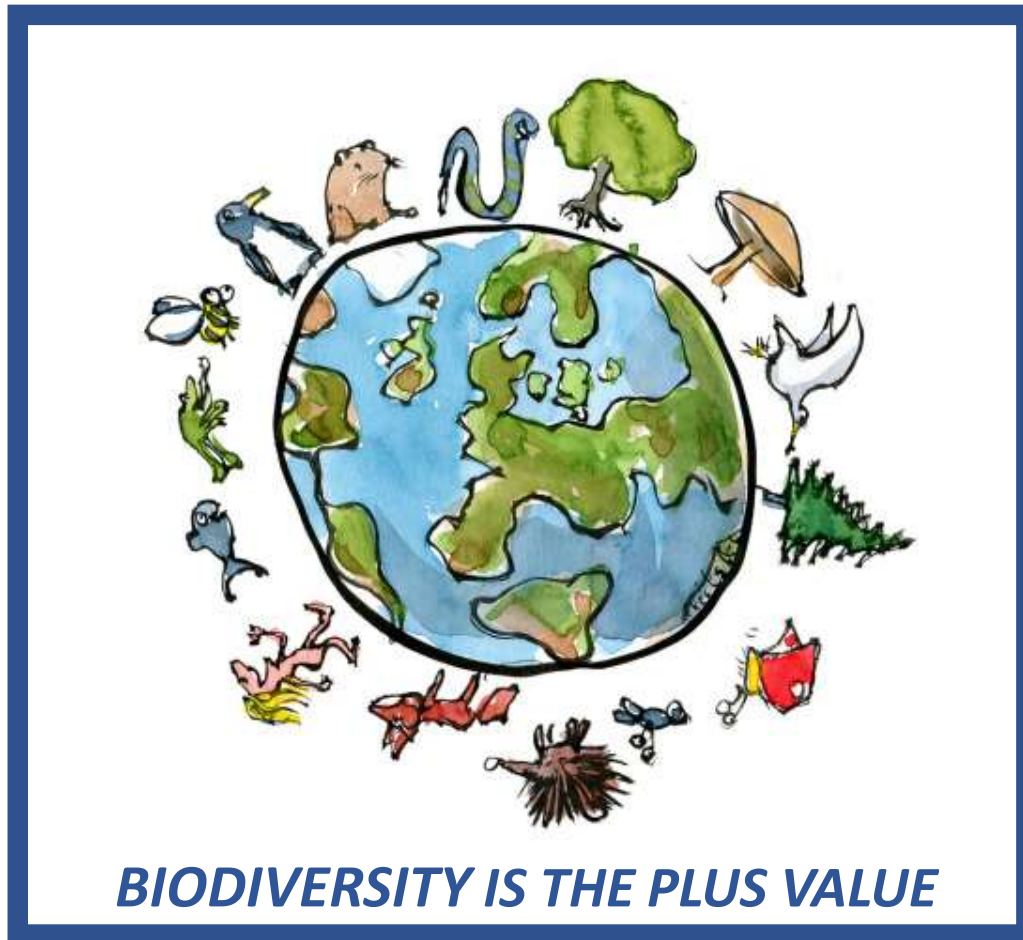
Apis m. carnica x ligustica



Economic sustainability



Territory and environment



Heritage



Well-being



biodiversity



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**Thank you for your
attention**