

## Science Café case studies

**Partner acronym: BGBM**

<b>Case study 4</b>	
<b>Title of the Science Café</b>	Science Cafe with practical workshop: Bees and biodiversity in urban and rural areas
<b>Date of event</b>	1.9.2018, 14- 18 o'clock
<b>Cooperation partners</b>	We planned the Science Cafe together with the Museumsdorf Düppel (museum village) in the context of a co-creation meeting with employees and members of the working groups (beekeeper and garden working group) located there.
<b>Venue</b>	Museumsdorf Düppel, the workshop took place in the the open-air area; the discussion in the museum café, where the guests could get food and drinks.
<b>Speakers</b>	Dr. Benedikt Polaczek Agricultural scientist and head beekeeper at the Free University of Berlin. He is also Chairman of the Berlin Beekeepers' Association and Chairman of the Zehlendorf Beekeepers' Association.  Thorsten Mohr Agricultural engineer and consultant for crop production at the Landesbauernverband (Agricultural Association) Brandenburg e.V. and owner of an own conventional farm in Havelland (arable farming, cattle , biogas plant)
<b>Number of people attending</b>	2 speakers, 1 presenter, student assistant; 1 Presenter for the workshop Visitors: Workshop: 7 visitors, 2 of them were children in the age of 10/12 Science Café: 8 visitors After the workshop 1 one visitor left together with the two children. 4 more visitors attendend the Science Café.
<b>Which topic was addressed?</b>	A scientific study showed that the number of flying insects in Germany had decreased by 75% within 27 years. Many species are at risk of extinction. More than half of the species of wild bees are already endangered. Honey bees are also affected. It is suspected that intensive agriculture has had a great influence on them. Insects are affected by the massive use of pesticides, synthetic mineral fertilizers, monocultures, close crop rotations and frequent mowing of grassland.
<b>Which goals did you want to achieved?</b>	We wanted to discuss the importance of insects for food production, the relationship between agricultural production and the decline of insects and biodiversity. In the discussion, visitors should formulate their interests as consumers of food and get suggestions on what they can do better themselves.
<b>Description of activity What did you do?</b>	We offered a practical workshop in which the visitors got to know beekeeping in the museum village, in the museum garden they learned which bee-friendly plants can be grown in the garden and on the balcony. Together they built an insect hotel. In the second part of the event the visitors discussed with 2 experts questions

	<p>about insect mortality and the role of agriculture. The beekeeper spoke before all about the threat of the honey bees by improper beekeeping. The representative of the farmers' association spoke about the fact that the decline of insects is a consequence of intensive agriculture, monocultures and the use of poisons in agriculture. However, he also stressed that farmers under strong economic pressure are being forced to intensify farming. He believes that above all the political framework conditions must change, subsidies should not promote mass production, but environmentally friendly production, e.g. through fallow land on which various species of plants and animals can settle.</p>
<p><b>Outcomes</b>  What went well?  What would you recommend to do differently next time?</p>	<p>The discussion was stimulated by the presentations of the speakers and was very lively and committed. Among the visitors were 4 beekeepers who were strongly focused on beekeeping and criticized conventional agriculture, which leads to pesticide residues in honey as well. Other more general statements from the audience related to consumers who should be more conscious about buying food (more local products, organic products) and agricultural policies that should promote sustainable production without environmental toxins.</p> <p>Unfortunately, in the Science Café we could almost only reach people who had already dealt with the topic before and already had a pronounced environmental awareness. We did not reach our goal to address especially families via the museum village who normally like to visit it. Our event was (in comparison to our other Science Cafes) very poorly attended. One reason for this could have been the competition with various other events in the district of the museum village, which attracted a potential audience. We couldn't find any further explanations, because we think we did everything right. Just like for the other Science Cafes we did advertisement. The topic “bees” normally meets with great interest; with the workshop we had an offer for families to participate and the chosen place, the museum village is a popular meeting place for families.</p> <p>In order to reach more audiences, better planning would be necessary, especially when it comes to the attention of competing events.</p>
<p><b>Policy recommendations</b></p>	<p>The visitors, in particular the beekeepers, who have a close relationship to agriculture, but also the speakers wish for a different agricultural policy. This policy should promote agricultural services for environmental protection and biodiversity much more through subsidies than the production of large quantities. Politics should take countermeasures if farmers are forced by trade to produce ever cheaper.</p>
<p><b>Photos (including title and credit)</b></p>	



Beekeeper explains beekeeping



Visitors building a home for insects

