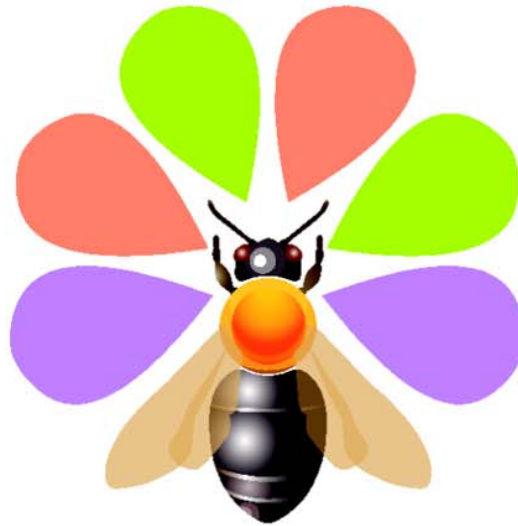


Dr Chris Hartfield

NFU

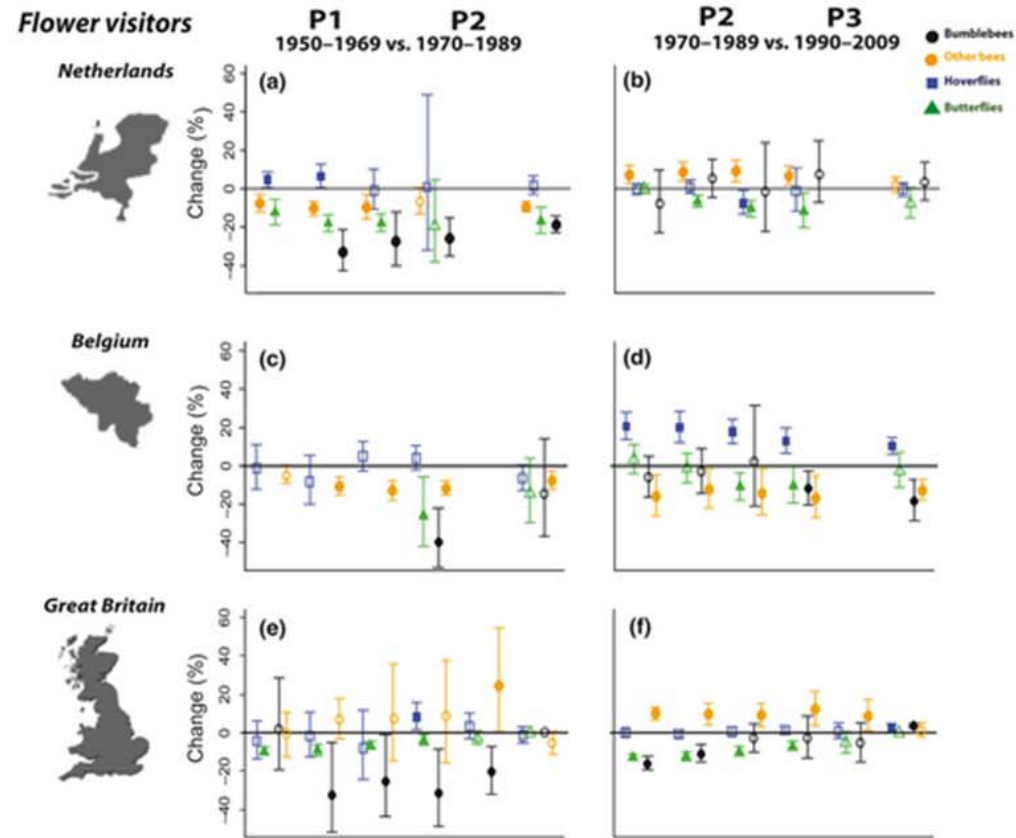




STEP

**Status and Trends of European
Pollinators**





Species richness declines and biotic homogenisation have slowed down for NW-European pollinators and plants – Carvalheiro et al, Ecology Letters, Volume 16, Issue 7, pages 870–878, July 2013

‘Without systematic and standardised monitoring of pollinator populations it is impossible to state unequivocally whether wild insect pollinators are in decline or not.’

Integrated Pest Management Plans

- **9,400 farmers, 2.6 million hectares of UK farmland**

Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE)

- **2013 - 677,000ha measures benefitting pollinators (nearly 2000ha each of wildflower mix, pollen & nectar mix, and flower-rich temporary grass)**
- **2014/2015 – over 70 CFE on-farm events / training days, reaching 1500 farmers & advisers**
- **Over 130 farm advisers completed online training**
- **2014 - seed for 443 ha of annual flowers**
- **2015 – seed for 1000 ha of flower-rich mixes**

Government agri-environment schemes

- **> 140,000 ha of measures that have taken areas out of crop production, to create areas that benefits bees such as nectar and wild bird seed mixtures**
- **> 380,000 km of hedgerow, ditch and boundary measures that will also benefit pollinating insect**

“There were quite a number of beekeepers this past year [2015] who had no crop off OSR; a good crop is usually guaranteed in our area.

While autumn-sown OSR is normally within flying distance from my apiaries, as it is extensively grown in this area [Essex/Cambridgeshire], there were large acreages in 2015 where the crop was completely devastated by flea beetle and had to be ploughed back in.

The OSR for 2016 looks very good at the moment, but farmers have been allowed to use neonics again in our area and there were not the same issues when seed drilling last autumn.”

