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FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

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Impact of Agricultural Practices on Pollinators, Pollination, and Food Production in Cameroon

Mazi Sanda

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10:00–12:00

MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM
AND ON ZOOM
BOLTZMANNSTR. 22
14195 BERLIN

Maintenance of a rich diversity of bee species can enhance the stability of pollination and thereby food security. However, pollinators are threatened by agricultural practices in Cameroon, where 91% of farmers use pesticides on crops without considering the side effects on pollinators in general and on bees in particular. In addition, there is habitat loss due to expanding agriculture: 99% of farmers cut down trees and spray herbicides to clean up new fields. This activity drastically reduces habitat facilities of pollinators. The effects of such agricultural practices are the loss of bee colonies, decreasing soil fertility and a drastic decline in biodiversity. Although a legal framework on pesticide registration, distribution, and use exists, regulations are not strictly implemented by the farmers. An effective communication between beekeepers and crop growers is thus important for sustainable development in Cameroon.

Mazi Sanda is a junior associate professor, entomologist, and beekeeper at the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Ngaoundere, Cameroon. His expertise includes pollination ecology, bee biodiversity (morphometry and molecular analysis through DNA barcoding), conservation, bee population genetics, ecotoxicology (impact of pesticides on animal health with special focus on bees), beekeeping in general with a particular interest in “smart beehive” technology and agro-ecology. Besides numerous scientific papers and four ethnographic films, his book *Honey Hunting and Beekeeping in Adamaoua (Cameroon)* (Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe) was published in 2019.

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