



BEE FRIENDLY SPECIFICATIONS

Synthesis

Our specifications are the result of a long process of research and development, with the collaboration of farmers, beekeepers, experts from various relevant themes, etc. This is why its dissemination to interested partners is determined by the signing of a confidentiality agreement.

This synthesis allows the candidate organization to understand the objectives of the specifications, its structure and the main requirements that must be met to obtain the BEE FRIENDLY label.

Objectives of BEE FRIENDLY specifications

The objectives of BEE FRIENDLY specifications are:

- Describe the pollinator-friendly farming practices and their ecosystems
- Define precisely and formally agricultural practices regarding their impact on pollinators
- Encourage farmers to engage in a process of continuous improvement practices
- Allow monitoring by an independent body to guarantee the reliability of the process

Structure of BEE FRIENDLY specifications

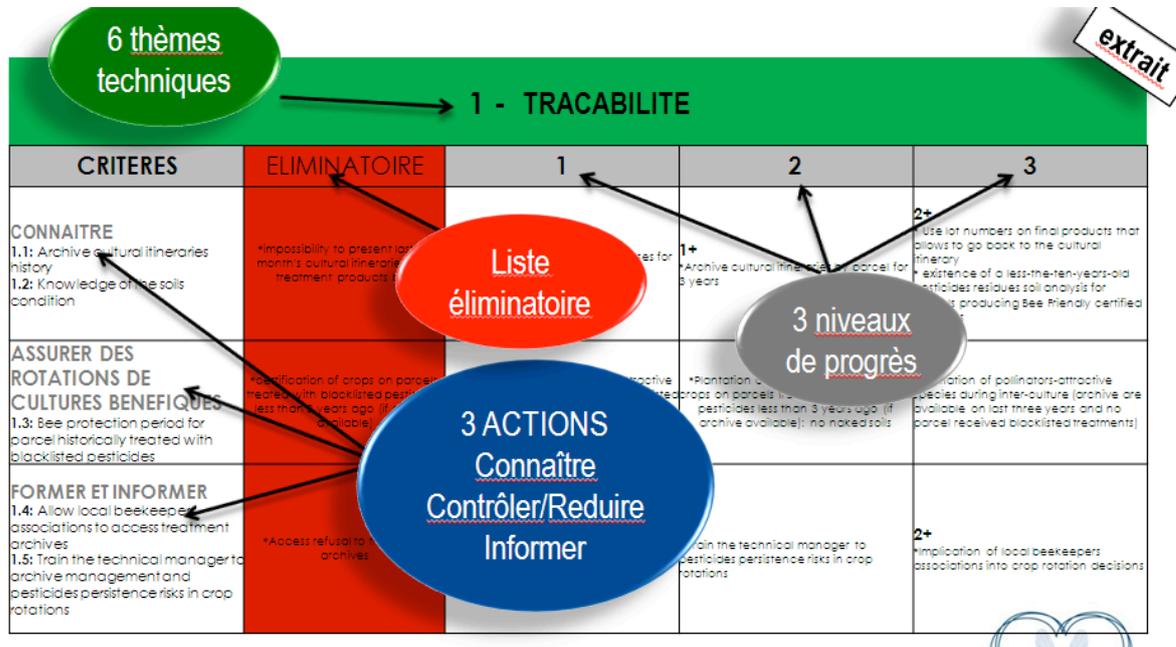
BEE FRIENDLY specifications include **27 criteria** divided into **six themes**:

- Traceability,
- GMOs,
- Pesticide use,
- Biodiversity preservation,
- Harvest,
- Partnerships.

Regarding specific sectors, it is possible that other themes are added: for example "Animal feed" for sectors such as Dairy industry.

BEE FRIENDLY specifications are structured in four levels:

- An eliminatory level which is, for each criterion, a minimum baseline-for-compliance threshold. If a structure does not pass this level, even if it is only for one criteria, it can not be considered as compliant.
- 3 levels of progress accompanying the candidate structure throughout a process of continuous improvement.



BEE FRIENDLY specifications are adapted to the specific constraints of each sector, in collaboration with ad hoc working groups integrating professional of the sectors.

Main requirements of BEE FRIENDLY specifications

For each BEE FRIENDLY thematic specifications, there are a series of requirements organized into 4 levels of progress.

Here are some examples of the main requirements that you can find in the BEE FRIENDLY specifications:

- Traceability
 - Register all agricultural practices on BEE FRIENDLY plots
 - Establish a waiting period on plots which received banned phytopharmaceutical treatments in previous years
- GMOs
 - Total ban of GMO use, direct or indirect.
- Use of pesticides
 - Prohibition of the use of pesticides in the blacklist. The blacklist is a list of prohibited active substances, established in collaboration with a French agronomic research institute on the impact of pesticides on bees and pollinators insects.
 - Prohibition to carry out treatments during flowering (except products bearing the "bee mention")



- Implement measures to protect pollinators (night treatments, letting beekeepers know before treatment, etc.).
- Develop alternative methods such as integrated pest management
- Preservation of biodiversity
 - Preserve biodiversity refuges and devote part of its surfaces to biodiversity support
 - Promote the continuity of the resources for pollinators
 - When there is a pollination contract, avoid too large hives transhumance distances
- Harvest
 - Limit the harvesting impact on pollinators carrying out harvesting operations outside the presence of pollinators or limiting their mortality during these operations
 - Avoid abrupt discontinuities in the availability of food resources for pollinators
- Partnerships
 - Establish partnerships with local beekeepers
 - Provide available plots for hives
 - Participate in research / awareness raising on pollinators
 - Inform local beekeepers associations about operations that may have an impact, positive or negative, on pollinators

Control procedure specifications BEE FRIENDLY

BEE FRIENDLY specifications are controlled by an independent certifying organization through annual audits of farms and of candidate organizations.

The audit report is then reviewed by the Audit Committee, a governing body of the BEE FRIENDLY Association.

This Committee is composed of members of the Association, beekeepers, farmers, representatives of civil society and experts.

This Committee:

- decides whether the production complies with the BEE FRIENDLY specifications, based on the audit results,
- and allows the structure to use BEE FRIENDLY logo on its products or any other means of identification respecting the use of BEE FRIENDLY graphic charter.