

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that:

- Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency amend the *Honeybee Importation Prohibition Regulations, 2004* in order to allow the importation of bee packages from the United States while developing additional methods and tools to improve the inspection of imported honey bee packages.
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada implement the bee health surveillance project on a continuous basis rather than a four-year period in order to set, in the long term, an overall picture of the health of Canadian bee colonies and in order to take appropriate long term actions to maintain the health of Canadian bee colonies.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, in conjunction with the provinces and territories, and in collaboration with industry stakeholders, accelerate the implementation of the National Bee Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard through adequate funding and management activities.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency accelerate its conditional registration process in order to reduce the current number of conditional registrations granted to neonicotinoid active ingredients.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development conduct a follow-up audit to verify whether the Pest Management Regulatory Agency has implemented the recommendations described in its 2008 audit report.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency take the necessary actions to accelerate its pesticide registration process, especially in relation to new products intended to control mites and diseases affecting honey bees. Any changes in the registration process should also take into consideration the safety of humans, plants, and the environment.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that:

- The Pest Management Regulatory Agency keep monitoring pollinator mortality during the spring of 2015 to assess whether the protective measures adopted for the 2014 planting season were efficient.
- The Pest Management Regulatory Agency conclude, without delay, its re-evaluation of neonicotinoid insecticides based on evidence and sound scientific principles with an objective of protecting the health of bees.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Health Canada, and the Department of Finance Canada through the Bee Health Forum, and in collaboration with the provinces and territories, increase the amount and the duration of research funding in order to undertake long-term research projects which contribute to the preservation of pollinator health.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, through the Bee Health Forum, and in collaboration with the provinces and territories, adopt initiatives aiming to improve management practices of hobbyist beekeepers and growers while minimizing the use of chemical products and ensuring the availability of untreated seeds.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, through the Bee Health Forum, and in collaboration with the provinces and territories, adopt initiatives to improve pollinator habitat such as the planting of selected wild flowering plants on median strips and highway shoulders, and on marginal land around all developments including airports and shopping centres.