Spotlight on protecting solitary bees and innovative bee-friendly spraying technology in the IV edition of the European Bee Award

ELO and CEMA received outstanding applications from all over Europe in the two categories of the 2017 European Bee Award: "Land Management practices" and "Innovative technological solutions". The Members of the Jury, chaired by Professor Charles GODFRAY, have selected a European project on understanding and protecting of solitary bees, and a novel bee-friendly spraying solution as the winners in each category. The award ceremony for the European Bee Award 2017 will take place on 5 December at the European Parliament.

Ana CANOMANUEL, ELO

"Land Management practices"

90% of bee species worldwide are solitary bees and they provide essential pollination services. "A bee project for solitary bees" is an initiative to protect wild pollinators in Sibelco's quarries as part of the wider Sibelco Biodiversity Strategy and European species protection program. The project includes several tools to manage quarries sustainably before, during and after operation. The quarries form very diverse landscapes, attracting solitary bees looking to nest in dry siliceous habitats on south-facing slopes. Raising awareness about bee diversity within the company is a priority for the project. People working in the quarries should understand what solitary bees are, and why they are found in the quarries. The project also focuses on recognising and creating good habitats for bees, and how to maintain them, by providing guidelines on flowering, nesting and monitoring.

"Innovative technological solutions"

The prize for this category will be awarded to the DroplegUL device and application technique, developed by *Lechler GmbH* in partnership with the University of Hohenheim and Südwestdeutsche Saatzucht family farm. The aim of this technological solution is to avoid contact between pollinators and plant protection products (PPPs) when they are applied in the flowering period. This technique addresses conflicts between beekeepers and farmers that arise when PPPs are applied at this time (e.g. rapeseed crop). The DroplegUL application technique allows under-flower application in order to avoid the deposition of PPPs on rapeseed flowers, one of the most important flowering agricultural crops for bees in Europe. As a result, there is almost no exposure to PPPs for flower-visiting bees and other pollinator insects. The device has already been successfully tested in other flowering crops. The DroplegUL device is commercially available and almost all boom sprayers can be equipped with it.

This year, special recognition will be granted to Marek NOWAKOWSKI for his lifetime contribution to wildlife and pollinator protection, and a special mention will be given to "Terras de Mondalva" for an integrated beekeeping project for rural development in Portugal.

Join us to celebrate pollinators and biodiversity! Register here: 2017beeaward.eventbrite.com

To learn more about the winning projects of the 2017 European Bee Award, visit: www.europeanlandowners.org/awards/bee-award

For more information, you can contact: ana.canomanuel@elo.org

Friend of Pollinators

This year, the jury of the European Bee Award has decided to bestow **special recognition** to a very unique contributor to the protection of pollinators and wildlife. Marek NOWAKOWSKI is an individual who has set himself the goal of "*turning environmental science into practice*". His expertise, skills and enthusiasm mean that he has made one of the single biggest contributions to farmland wildlife by a private individual. He is the author of many publications, including the book "Habitat creation and management for pollinators" edited by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), which gathers his 35 years of field experience.

As an agronomist and wildlife enthusiast, he has helped many companies, governments and commercial organisations over the years to turn environmental research into farmland deliverables.

M. NOWAKOWSKI