PROGRAM OF INSECT PROTECTION MEASURES IN BRANDENBURG

PETER WEIßHUHN, KATHARINA HELMING



Bumblebee (Bombus terrestris) visits a common bugloss (Anchusa officinalis) in the National Park Unteres Odertal

The globally observed insect decline not only jeopardizes ecosystem services such as pollination and natural pest control, but also threatens birds, bats and other species groups as the results of the drastic changes in the ecosystem food web. This problem receives more and more attention in politics and society. In June 2018, the German Federal Government approved key points for an action program towards insect protection. In Brandenburg, two public initiatives for insect protection were initiated in April 2019. This was the basis for the Government of Brandenburg to also start a provincial action program for insect protection in 2019, to be scientifically supported by ZALF.



Both the total amount of insects and the diversity of insect species in Germany have declined dramatically in recent decades. According to the so-called Krefeld Study by Hallmann et al. (2017), even in the protected areas considered to be intact, insects have

lost around 75 % of their biomass within a quarter of a century. On behalf of and in close cooperation with the Brandenburg Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Climate Protection, an action program for insect protection in Brandenburg is being developed to quickly and effectively reduce the decline in insect populations.

The participatory generation of knowledge is of central importance. By involving actors from politics, land use, civil society organizations and research, existing expertise and practical experience will be integrated and a broad range of opinions considered. In several workshops, the following core areas are addressed: agriculture, other land use types (including municipal land), and future research needs. Apart from that, the mutual exchange between the project management and the participating actors will continue throughout the entire duration of the project. In addition, existing insect protection strategies at federal and state level will be analyzed and integrated into the design of the program in Brandenburg.

The collected pool of the proposed measures will then be structured, summarized and described in more detail. This is followed by a ranking, where the main criterion is the ecological effectiveness of each measure. Further criteria include the feasibility (effort, acceptance and risks) and the potential coherence with other protection goals, such as climate protection, soil protection or bird protection.

In this project, ZALF cooperates with the Senckenberg German Entomological Institute in Müncheberg (SDEI) and the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (HNEE). The project team is supported by an advisory board consisting of established scientists.

Project: Action program for insect protection in Brandenburg **Term:** 2019–2020 **Sponsor:** MLUK **Lead at ZALF:** P. Weißhuhn (weisshuhn@zalf.de) **Partner:** SDEI, HNEE