

# Conservation bio-protection



## What is it?

A set of practices to promote biological protection through natural limitation of pests by attracting and keeping the population of parasitoids or predators.

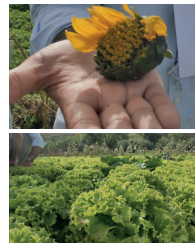
## How does it work?

**Conservation**

**Natural enemies**

**Biological control**

With the goal of having a more complex environment, ecological infrastructures are installed or maintained in the fields. These can be hedges, strips of flowers or other structures that provide food and shelter to specific insects. These structures are kept to attract predators or parasitoids of the pest(s) the farmer wants to control. The choice of plant species is important to ensure the right insects are attracted to the fields and will control the pest. This practice can also be complementary to the release of commercialized auxiliary insects.



## Results

By increasing and maintaining the population of natural enemies in the fields, there is a significant reduction of the presence of pests using only biological and cultural control that manipulates the habitat and increases farm biodiversity.

These beneficial insects help by reducing the severity of the attack which results in a reduction of pesticide use!

## Cost – Cost-efficiency

Creating and maintaining an attractive ecosystem for beneficial insects can have little to no cost, depending on the starting point and on what ecological structures are built. Example for **flower strips**: 30 to 60€/ha per year.

**Reduction of costs:** less need of chemical treatments. A conventional treatment for pest control in a horticulture farm can go from ~30€ to 80€/ha per treatment.

This practice has no impact on yields as it can be complementary to chemical treatments in case of high severity of an attack.