

Viewpoint: ‘Defenders of modern agriculture should vehemently push back against the notion that today’s food model undermines bee health or human health’

Since the introduction of neonicotinoid insecticides – the pesticides blamed for bee death – in the mid-90s, bee populations have not collapsed. The data [show](#) that as of 2020, there has been an increase of beehives by 17% since 2010, 35% since 2000, and 90% since 1961.

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As for wild bees, not just are they hard to count (because, as the name suggests, they are wild), but existing research predicting catastrophic decline [has been debunked](#) in the past.

That does not mean that there are no threats to pollinators or that modern farming does not have an impact on them. In fact, [climate change has affected](#) the warming-tracking of bumble bees and led them to seek higher elevation. Added to that, solitary bees are affected by the impact of [habitat loss](#) caused by the rapid expansion of agriculture over the last centuries.

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Organic farming, contrary to popular belief, does use [a long list of pesticides](#), and a shift to all-organic would increase the need for farmland. A study by the University of Melbourne [found](#) that organic farming yields 43-72 percent less than traditional farming and that it requires 130 per cent more farmland to yield the same output.

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Defenders of modern agriculture should vehemently push back against the notion that today’s food model undermines bee health or human health, for that matter. In fact, the solutions of environmental activists are so counter-productive to their own stated aims that we can safely say to them: we’re on your side, but you’re not.

[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here](#)