



## **BEE ENGAGED!**

“If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth, man would have no more than four years to live.”

- Albert Einstein

### **Did You Know?**

- 3 out of 4 crops producing fruits or seeds, for human consumption, mainly depend on bees as their pollinators.
- Increasing pollinators density can boost crop yields. This is because 35% of agricultural land are affected by bees.
- Produce that is dependant on pollinators, such as bees, contribute to health and nutrition across the globe.
- Bees are under threat due to unsustainable agricultural methods, such as uses of harmful insecticides.
- Saving the bees also ensures protection of biodiversity of our natural environment.

### **How Can Consumers Make a Difference?**

The average, everyday person may think there is not much that they can do about the elements threatening the bee population however this is far from true.

Heres how you can help:

1. Avoid food grown using harmful pesticides which contain neonicotinoids. People should ensure they buy organic produce where possible. Take note of what the labels on produce say, some may be organic, but this does not necessarily mean they are bee friendly.
2. Grow the bees' natural habitat. You can easily do this by planting a variety of useful flowers and use less fertiliser or pesticides in order to create a bee-friendly environment. Not only will this help save our bees, but it will also give you a beautiful garden to admire.
3. Think about building bee hives, if you are able to, in order to gives bees a safe place to develop and grow their colony.
4. Teach others about the importance of our bees, so more people can make a difference across the country.

The bee population is at risk and needs to be protected to ensure South Africa's natural biodiversity is protected. Protecting our bees will also make a difference to food security in our country as they play a large role in pollinating agricultural produce across the country.

HelloChoice® encourages all farmers to ensure that their practices are bee friendly. We hope we can all help the bees, as they are vital to agriculture and an essential part of everyday life.