

Why

Functional flower borders are an interesting alternative to conventional crop protection products. The aim is to use these edges to reduce the need for spraying and, consequently, the impact on the environment and biodiversity. By attracting targeted natural enemies via the right flower mixtures, they provide natural pest control in the surrounding fields.

Cost

- Cost depends on supplier & seed mix (varying prices from +- 130 to 260 euros per kg of seed)
- **Relevant grant channels:** VLM management agreements (waiting for more info on new PAs) / via project collaborations

What

Functional AgroBiodiversity (or FAB) is the targeted promotion of biodiversity in and around the field to provide services for agriculture. One of the FAB measures used are FAB flower borders. These are aimed at natural pest control: that is, they provide a habitat and nectar source for beneficial pest controllers (i.e. nutritious). These in turn then control pests in crops (e.g. larvae of ladybugs that eat aphids) around the flower border. In this way, there is less need for plant protection products.

Benefits

By focusing on more useful natural pest controls, you can improve the natural balance and save on crop protection products. In addition, it becomes financially interesting especially through BO grants (or reimbursements from project operation).

Through the flower borders you create additional biodiversity (both more diversity of flowers and animals), which also provides valuable ecosystem services for both agriculture and nature:

- higher level of pollination
- higher level of natural pest control
- flower border can also serve as an erosion strip
- flower edge also counteracts the runoff of fertilizers and plant protection products, avoiding their discharge into adjacent watercourses, which is beneficial to water quality

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