

PROJECT Insect REFUGEES



The Insect refugees is a initiative to protect insects from their rapid decline in number and diversity and halt extinction of species and establish chemical free refuges around the country

The Challenge

Over a million species of insects have been identified but at least another 4 to 5 million unidentified species are believed to exist in the wilderness. But climate change, urbanization, destruction of habitats, deforestation, light pollution, invasive species and indiscriminate use of pesticides and chemicals have wreaked havoc in the insect world. It is estimated that the loss of species and population is increasing by over 1 to 2 percent annually, thereby reducing upto 20% of all the insects on the planet in a decade. In India, the rough estimates put the loss of insects at 40% in the past 3 decades. There has been no comprehensive survey in the country concerning insects and there has been no appreciation of the disaster we might be causing to our ecosystem and ecosystem services. Among the conservation of species, insects have not found priority and as such, the consequences in the near future could turn disastrous.

The Solution

Speedy action is an underlining principle for solutions to the insect crisis. India being an agricultural country, the loss of insects could directly exacerbate food security crisis in the coming years. We need to integrate available information and research gap areas to establish an information archive on the status of insects in the country and the consequences of their decline. More importantly, we need to establish nation-side refugee camps for insects, and develop a networked space for the conservation of insects in the form of protected horticultural farms that do not use chemicals

The Benefits

Establishment of insect refugee camps will have multiple benefits – Protection of biodiversity and population as well as increased pollination are often well articulated. Pollination apart, biological control, food provisioning, recycling organic matter, producing honey, silk, lac, medicines and food are just some of the reasons why we need insects.

