

Ecosystems

1. Interdependence

CONCEPT 3

INSECTS ARE IMPORTANT

NOTES

Food security refers to the availability of food and the ability to obtain it. Pollination is vital for plant reproduction and fruit crops make up a large part of food security.

Bees are pollinators and anything that interferes with bee activity such as disease or adverse weather can reduce pollination.

Human activities such as habitat destruction and intensive farming are reducing the numbers of wild bees. In some parts of the world Wild bees have become extinct. Some farmers have to hand pollinate. There are not enough humans in the world to hand pollinate all our crops and fruits produced by hand pollination are often smaller. This will affect our food security. Monoculture is also having an impact on pollinator numbers. The flowering window is too short. Some countries use monoculture to sell crops to richer countries which means the land left to feed local people is of poor quality.