Project reference	DARCC046
Project title	Building Government Capability to Train Farmers about Pollination in Ethiopia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Ethiopia
Lead Organisation	Bees for Development
Partner(s)	Bees for Development Ethiopia (BFDE), Pesticide Action Nexus Ethiopia, Bahir Dar University
Project Leader	Dr. Janet Lowore
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	15/11/2025 and HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	**www.beesfordevelopment.org** **(http://www.beesfordevelopment.org)**

Project started April 2024. We have reviewed the performance and suitability of our MEL framework to ensure it remains aligned with project objectives and we are confident that the current indicators remain relevant and appropriate for tracking progress toward the project outcomes. Indicators have clear data sources and can be reliably measured using routine project monitoring tools.

Progress achieved in last 6 months.

Preparation and material development.
- Developed, revised, and finalized material for the Training of Trainers (TOT) /resource persons and Development Agents (DAs) rollout training.
- Drafted, refined, and prepared the PTT handbook for printing.

Toolkit Production, TOT Delivery, and Rollout Training
- Finalised the Pollination Training Toolkit (PTT) (hard copy)
- Produced 1,000 copies of the PTT handbook in both Amharic and English.
- Made ready for use in TOT and rollout training sessions.

Training of Trainers (TOT)
- Delivered TOT using the PTT manual for trainers from project target woredas (Fogera, Libo-kemkem and Chencha), - including zonal and regional experts.
- 35 trainers (7 female) participated.

Training of Trainers Assessment Results
- Perception change: increased from 78% to 92%.
- Knowledge and skills: increased from 77% to 84%.

Rollout Training for Development Agents
- Conducted rollout training in three project target woredas
- A total of 394 Development Agents (DAs) (126 women) participated in the rollout training. This figure is 10% higher than the project's original target, demonstrating strong progress in reaching and engaging the intended number of trainees

Rollout Training Assessment Results
- Average perception change: improved from 56% to 88%.
- Average knowledge change: improved from 57% to 83%.

[participants completed a pre-training and post-training questionnaire comprising 15 questions. Scores were converted to percentages]. These results demonstrate significant gains in understanding, clear grasp of training messages, and good comprehension across participants.

Stakeholder Engagement
Consultation Meeting
- Held on July 24, 2025, in Bahir Dar.
- 34 participants (4 women), including higher-level officials, senior and junior technical experts from relevant government departments.

This meeting strengthened stakeholder alignment, clarified roles and expectations and built a strong foundation for collaborative implementation in the current project phase.

Overall Summary
Across the two quarters, we achieved:
- Successful development and printing of key training tools (PTT handbooks)
- Effective TOT implementation with measurable improvements in perception and knowledge
- Large-scale rollout training reaching nearly 400 DAs with strong learning outcomes
- Strengthened stakeholder engagement and project coordination through a high-level consultation meeting
- Our activities demonstrate strong progress in capacity building, knowledge transfer, and stakeholder alignment for the Pollination Training Toolkit project.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Over the last six months, the project has not encountered any major problems that negatively affected implementation or overall progress. All planned activities were completed on schedule and within operational expectations.

One unexpected development was the continued devaluation of the ETB currency. This has created some surplus (in local currency) on some budget lines. This enabled us to respond to a request to adjoin an MSc student to the project. The student is studying entomology at University of Gondar [Ethiopia] and wished to implement a study monitoring populations of pollinating insects within the target project areas. We have been able to respond positively to

this request and make some small money available from the operational budget lines to support some of the student's fieldwork. This aligns with the project aims and impact as it builds capacity and capability in Ethiopia towards creating new knowledge and awareness about insect pollinators, their populations and importance.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS:	No
Formal Change Request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	No
Change Request reference if known: n/a	

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025)

Actual spend: ▮▮▮▮▮▮

4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2026)?

Yes   **No** ✖   Estimated underspend: £

4c. If you expect an underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible, and not later than 31st December. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes to your project if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCFs management, monitoring, or financial procedures?
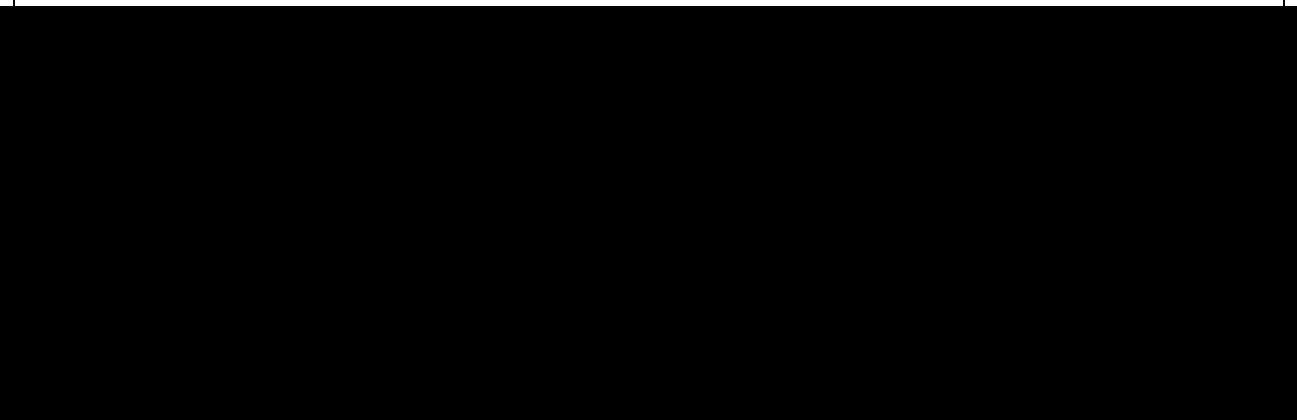
Suspicions or allegations related to fraud and error concerns should be reported to fraudanderror@Defra.gov.uk

No

6. Project risk management

6a. If your project has an Overseas Security and Justice assessment, please provide an update on any related risks, and any special conditions in your award paperwork if relevant for your project.

N/A

7. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent Annual Report. As a reminder, all projects that were scored as 'Not Yet Sensitive' in the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment of their latest Annual Report should demonstrate how they are meeting the minimum GESI-Sensitive standard.

AR 1 Feedback comment 6.
The Risk Register needs improvement for safeguarding and SEAH. The risk of SEAH should be made clear as it applies to all stakeholders including staff and volunteers.

This has been done – see attached risk register.
Also attached is the updated Safeguarding Policy and Incident Log procedure.

Checklist for submission

Have you responded to **feedback from your latest Annual Report Review?** You should respond in section 6, and annexe other requested materials as appropriate.	YES
Have you reported against the most **up to date information for your project?**	YES
Have you **clearly highlighted any confidential information** within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	n/a
Include your **project reference** in the subject line of submission email.	YES
Submit to **BCF-Reports@niras.com**	
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	