

BYBI IN 2021:

CULTIVATING A REGENERATIVE COMMUNITY OF BEES, FLOWERS AND PEOPLE IN COPENHAGEN



First, thank you. Thank you for your hospitality in your gardens, grounds and buildings. Thank you for planting flowers all over the city. Thank you for circulating our honey. Thank you for your curiosity, generosity and enthusiasm for all this both in-person and online.



We have to believe that all humans have as much potential to do good for the living world, as we have to do it ill. We *all* need to insist on finding and activating that potential in each other. That's what we are trying to do, by building new connections between bees, flowers, people and honey. We know that your actions inspire others and that this inspiration and infectious curiosity is what keeps our community living and growing.

“STAY WITH THE TROUBLE!”

The philosopher Donna Haraway says that we should “stay with the trouble”. This means remembering that today’s problems are usually the consequence of solutions from yesterday. In building a healthier community of people, plants and animals we need to be continuously listening to other voices, adapting as we go along and asking ourselves new, better questions.

In this short report, each achievement from 2021 is a question. Please help us to answer these questions. If you have suggestions or ideas write to us at bzzz@bybi.dk or share your thoughts @bybi.dk on Social Media.

1. ARE THE BEES AND BEEKEEPERS HAPPIER?

We reduced the number of colonies again to about 100 and reduced the number of colonies per site. This was in order to avoid over-burdening each site with honey bees. This resulted in a harvest of 4,846 kg honey, which is less than last year, but more per colony. Aref says the colonies are stronger and the job has been physically more manageable.

Meanwhile the conditions for people of Syrian origin in Denmark has become more challenging. How do we ensure that our beekeeper Aref and his family have our support in this increasingly hostile environment?



2. HAVE WE LEARNED TO UNDERSTAND THE BEES BETTER?

Our magical “Sound Walk With Bees” launched in may. 650 people participated in 5 events and discovered the hidden conversations between bees, flowers and people. We used the Sound Walk in 26 tours and events and projects with 3 schools. In 2022 we want to reach bigger audience, learn more about the impact and plant more flowers for all pollinators. After doing the Sound Walk, tasting honey became like listening to a dialog between bees and flowers. How can we use that experience next year?



3. HAS THE HONEY BECOME MORE OF AN INVITATION?

Honey is not a product but an invitation – to plant more flowers and to connect with our local environment. We have asked ourselves how we can find better ways to activate this potential. We distributed 25.000 bags of flower seeds and 10.000 flower bulbs. We introduced our “circular honey set”. We launched our webshop where we hope to share experiences with bees and flowers from across our community. We invested in our Social Media to share stories about bees, flowers and people. In 2021 we will try to improve the flower seeds we use. We will try to find new ways to circulate the honey that directly improve conditions for pollinators and human communities. But how can we integrate this idea into conventional shops and sales channels? Should we even try?





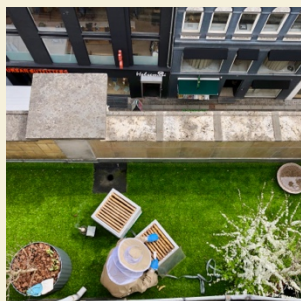
4. HAVE OUR PARTNERSHIPS BECOME MORE REGENERATIVE?

In 2021 we changed our model, so all new partnerships include flower seeds, communication support and the honey produced by the bees. We welcomed 3 new partners to the community: Radiometer, Rockfon, Muji. We hope to improve our events and projects next year, so that the ideas in our model spread to other sectors and groups. What can traditional leaders and industries learn from our approach to bees, flowers and honey?



5. HAVE WE IMPROVED THE DIVERSITY AND ENGAGEMENT OF OUR SOCIAL COMMUNITY? HAVE WE USED IT BETTER?

Bybi has enjoyed the support of 21 staff and volunteers from 9 countries. The spread of ages has been from 6 to 60 and with different backgrounds and experiences. This group have kept us going through Corona and are what make our headquarters a rewarding place to be a part of. What do we need to make our community better?

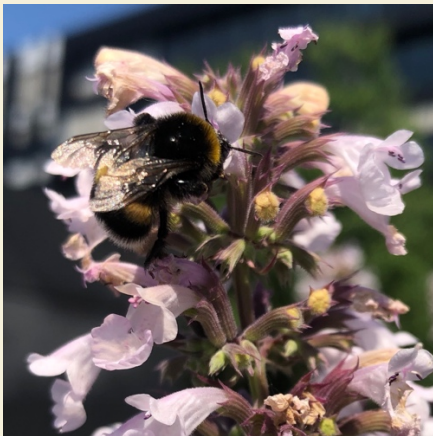


6. HAVE WE IMPROVED THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION?

Two years of corona restrictions have undermined our tours, events and markets and built up a debt to SKAT. We have recovered some of the lost ground and increased our turnover but still expect a loss in 2021. As a non-profit association it is difficult for Bybi to attract investment. How can we bring in extra money to pay for our ambitions and the development of our model?

7. WHAT VOICES HAVE WE OVERLOOKED?

There are over 240 species of bee in Denmark, of which honey bees are just one. Some live solitary lives. Some species are only attracted by one kind of flower. We try to encourage people to create better environments for all pollinators but we are constantly learning and listening to experts and researchers. Are there other voices – from plants, animals or people – that we have overlooked?





HONEY GATHERED IN 2021

Partner	Colonies	Honey collected (kg)
3F	4	187
Bella Center	6	137
Botanisk Have	8	550
Dansk Industri	2	72
Dansk Spil	4	224
HOFOR, Valby	6	252
Ikea Gladsaxe	2	111
Kongelund	8	266
Københavns Rådhus	2	43
L'Oreal	4	150
Lederne	6	304
Magneten, Frederiksberg	4	183
Muji, Illum	2	107
Niels Bohr Institute	8	351
Radiometer	4	185
Rockfon	4	157
Sundholm	6	235
Tivoli	3	56
Velux	6	177
Blend and other partners	15	1100
Total:	104	4847

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!



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