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**The overseen risk of poverty spirals driven by pollinator loss - and agriculture in charge**

The diversity of wild pollinators declines globally. Wild pollinator species provide 85% of the global pollination services, honeybees count only for 15% and cannot compensate the loss of diversity of wild pollinators. Pollination services are regulating ecosystem services, and decline of regulating services foreshadows loss of other ecosystem services. Pollinators have key functions for (1) agriculture, as 87 of 115 most important food crops require or benefit from pollinators (mostly high value crops), (2) biodiversity, as 85% of all plants need pollinators and loss of pollinators can cause cascades of extinctions in flora, fauna and finally habitats, (3) climate change adaptation, as cross-pollination enhances genetic diversity and thus the development of genotypes potentially better adapted to climate change and (4) all other ecosystem services: As 85% of all plants depend on pollinators, all ecosystem services provided by these plants are as well at high risk in case these plants get extinct. It is not probable that the remaining species can compensate such loss of biodiversity and their full ecosystem services. The loss of cross-pollination can highly accelerate the loss of species and ecosystem services in the course of climate change. Pollinator loss can cause simultaneous multiple degradation in affected regions by reducing other ecosystem services. If the local population cannot produce food, medicinal or industrial raw materials anymore, agriculture provides less jobs, erosion and mudflows endanger livelihoods, the water management fails, the local climate deteriorates due to change of vegetation or nature does not allow mental and physical recreation or tourism anymore, together all these factors can lead to abandonment of rural areas. Human responses on partial loss of ecosystem services might be counterproductive for other ecosystem services or counterproductive for climate change adaptation. Pollinator-loss induced spirals of poverty can cause social and even international conflicts, e.g. caused by hunger, migration to urban areas or armed struggle on regions still having pollinators. If pollinator communities collapse in various countries simultaneously, pollinator loss can cause a global syndrome of change threatening mankind. Broad introduction of Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP) and pollinator corridors in agricultural lands might reduce the risks.