THE POLLINATION OF NEPAL'S MICRONUTRIENT-RICH CROPS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE (MICRO-POLL)

(JAN 2021 - DEC 2022)

Micro-Poll is a 3-year transdisciplinary project with partners from the University of Harvard, the University of Helsinki and UCL. The project is funded by the Belmont Forum (a consortium of international funders including NERC, NSF and the Finnish Academy) and the Bristol Centre for Agricultural Innovation. Nepal is on the front line of climate change, placing both its people and its pollinators at risk. Pollinator declines are predicted to impact human health as key micronutrients in insect-pollinated crops such as vitamin A and folate are lost from the diet. With no viable alternatives to home-grown foods and limited access to vitamin supplements, rural Nepali communities cannot afford to lose their pollinators. Our project aimed to predict the impacts of climate change on pollinator communities and the resulting effects on human nutrition. We will use this information to devise mitigation strategies for safeguarding both pollinators and human health in Nepal.

WHAT WE ARE DOING?

Bringing together a brand-new interdisciplinary team of ecologists, medical researchers, climate change scientists and Nepali health professionals, we hope to uncover the hidden links between pollinators, climate change and human health in Nepal. Armed with this knowledge, we will work alongside health practitioners, policymakers and local people to devise a strategy for protecting Nepal's precious pollinators in the face of a changing climate.

We will identify which crops are providing the most important micro-nutrients in the diets of rural Nepali populations and which insects are pollinating these crops. Using cutting-edge modelling techniques, we can then predict how this will change in the face of climate change and what can be done to mitigate the negative effects.

HOW IT HELPS?

By conserving Nepal's pollinators, we can help to sustain and improve micronutrient access for some of the most underprivileged and vulnerable populations in the world, as well as benefitting its biodiversity. Only by bringing together such a diverse team of minds, can all this be achieved.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

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