



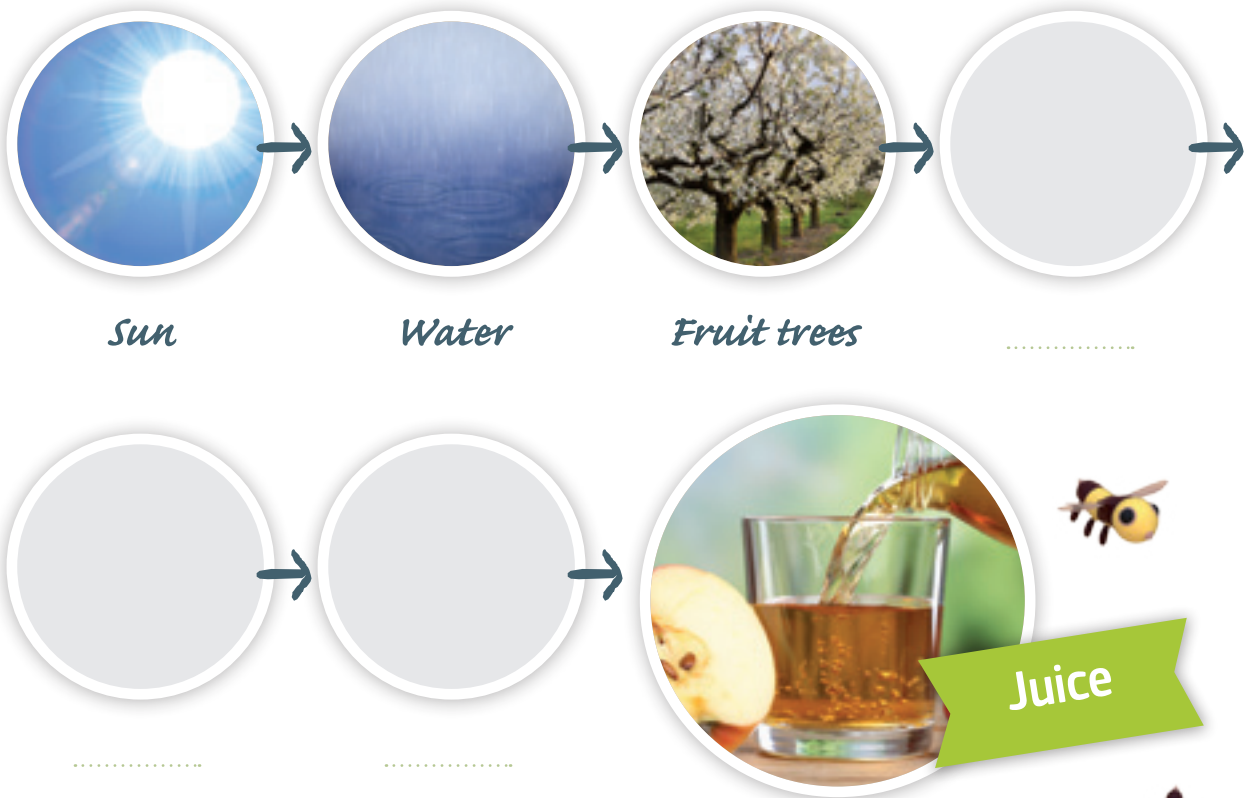
SAFEGUARDING BIODIVERSITY IN AGRICULTURE



Imagine a world without strawberries or chocolate. Most plants cannot set seed without being pollinated by receiving pollen, usually from another flower, with the aid of a wild pollinator. If the cacao flower wasn't visited by a tiny fly we wouldn't have chocolate, so even the humble fly has an important role to play!

1. a) Unjumble, draw and label the missing links in this food cycle.

Apples – Pollinators – Processing



- b) Can you work out the food cycles of these two foods?

- ▶ Hazelnuts
- ▶ Tomatoes



- 2.** Crops rely on insect pollination so we need biodiversity in agriculture to grow products for consumption. It is estimated that one out of every three mouthfuls of our food depends on pollination taking place. Across the world species are being lost, indeed in the EU around 40% of bee and hoverfly species are in decline. Without biodiversity and insects, farmers would have to hand-pollinate crops at a cost of billions a year.

With the support of the EU, farmers in Europe are increasingly practising 'greener' or more sustainable agriculture, safeguarding biodiversity, protecting wildlife habitats and working to save our pollinators by:

- ▶ maintaining native habitats such as hay meadows, grass pastures, bogs, hillsides and ponds;
 - ▶ better management of pesticides;
 - ▶ restoring wildflower-rich landscapes and hedgerows;
 - ▶ sowing a diverse range of native seeds and plants for crops.
- a) Suggest practical greening practices that farmers can use so that biodiversity can be maintained.
- b) Imagine you are a beekeeper. You rent your beehives to farmers to assist in pollination of crops. Create an advertisement for the farming section of a local newspaper offering your honeybees for rent to pollinate the plants in crop fields.
- c) If anyone knows a beekeeper why not invite them to class to explain the fascinating work of bees and beekeeping?



- 3.** Brainstorm some actions for biodiversity that the class could undertake. How about planting a tree or creating a pollinator plot or a wildflower habitat in or near the school?



Investigate what you might do, think about how to do it and then write an email to your headteacher/director inviting him/her to the classroom to hear your suggestions and proposals.