



Felix Wackers

Biobest/Lancaster University

Professor at Lancaster University, Director R&D for the Biobest Group, Chairman of the European Learning Network on Functional Biodiversity. Felix has been working in the field of biological control and pollination for over 30 years focusing on novel non-chemical strategies for crop protection and crop management.

He holds a PhD in entomology from Wageningen University and has held positions at USDA-ARS, ETH Zürich, and the Netherland's Institute of Ecology. In October 2005 he accepted a position as the Director of the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture at Lancaster University. Since 2009 he combines his academic work with leading a research team of 30 FTE's at Biobest, an internationally leading company in the production of pollinators and biological control agents.

His academic research focuses on plant-insect interactions with a particular interest in the evolution and functioning of food-mediated mutualisms. His applied research, both in protected crops and in the open field, addresses the impact of landscape management and food supplementation on ecosystem service provision (pollination and biological control). Publications include a total of 160+ peer reviewed articles, including the book "Plant-Provided Food for Carnivorous Insects" for Cambridge University Press.

Together with the R&D team at Biobest he launched a number of key innovations, including:

- "Flying Doctors", a system to utilize bumblebees to disperse microbial antagonists for efficient biological control of flower associated pathogens and pests
- "Nutrimite", the first commercially available food supplement to support predatory mites.