

KNOWLEDGE CO-PRODUCTION IN BEE STUDIES IN LATIN AMERICAN COFFEE AGROECOSYSTEMS: A META-NARRATIVE REVIEW

Gabriela García-Esqueda^{1*}, Andrés Camou-Guerrero², Juliana Merçon³, Luciana Porter-Bolland⁴, Jaime Paneque-Gálvez⁵, Alejandro Reyes-González⁶

¹Ciencias de la Sostenibilidad, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Morelia, Michoacán, México. 58190.

²Escuela Nacional de Estudios Superiores Unidad Morelia, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Morelia, Michoacán, México. 58190.

³Instituto de Investigaciones en Educación, Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa, Veracruz, México. 91097. ⁴Red de Ambiente y Sustentabilidad, Instituto de Ecología, A.C., Xalapa, Veracruz, México. 91073.

⁵Centro de Investigaciones en Geografía Ambiental, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Morelia, Michoacán, México. 58190.

⁶Laboratorio Nacional de Análisis y Síntesis Ecológica, Escuela Nacional de Estudios Superiores Morelia, Michoacán, México. 58190.

*Corresponding author: ggesqueda@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Knowledge co-production is key to designing strategies for the use and conservation of pollinators relevant to local contexts. However, the inclusion of diverse actors in research processes does not guarantee a real integration of knowledge. This study analyzes how local knowledge has been incorporated in research on bees in coffee agroecosystems in Latin America. Through a meta-narrative review of studies published between 1993 and 2022, the participation of non-academic actors was evaluated from a transdisciplinary research approach (TDR). The results indicate that, although 63.5% of the studies reviewed in depth involve producers, there is scarce collaborative definition of problems, joint methodological construction, or return of results. Four types of studies were identified according to their objectives: those that describe biotic elements of the coffee-bee system (48.6%), those that analyze beekeeping management practices (31.1%), those that address socioecological connectivity (6.8%), and those that systematize non-academic perceptions of pollinators (13.5%). The review highlights the need to strengthen the processes of knowledge co-production through the explicitness of accessible theoretical and methodological bases, the creation of spaces for horizontal exchange, and the active participation of peasant organizations and other non-academic actors. Overall, the findings offer an overview of the current state of research and underscore the need for more collaborative, inclusive and contextualized approaches to address sustainability challenges in Latin American coffee agroecosystems.

A. 2025. Knowledge coproduction in bee studies in latin american coffee agroecosystems: a metanarrative review.
Agricultura, Sociedad y Desarrollo https://doi.org/10.22231/asyd.v22i4.1758

Citation: García-Esqueda G,

Camou-Guerrero A, Merçon

J, Porter-Bolland L, Paneque-Gálvez J, Reyes-González

ASyD(22): 613-630

Editor in Chief: Dr. Benito Ramírez Valverde

Received: December 11, 2024. Approved: April 1, 2025.

Estimated publication date: September 17, 2025.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial 4.0 International license.



Key words: agroforestry systems, Apoidea, Coffea arabica, pollinators, transdisciplinary research.

INTRODUCTION

Coffee plantations are agroecosystems of great ecological and biocultural importance (Méndez *et al.*, 2010; Perfecto and Vandermeer, 2015), where pollination by bees plays a key role in the yield of coffee trees (Ngo *et al.*,

2011; Roubik, 2002), in addition to pollinating other trees and crops. The diversification of coffee plantations ranges from monoculture to plots with more than 74 forest species, which is related to the uses and values given by coffee-growing families to the species with which they carry out their diversification (Cerdán et al., 2012), influencing in turn the diversity of pollinators (Cepeda-Valencia et al., 2014). The management of social bees (Apis mellifera and Meliponini) is integrated among productive diversification strategies, due to the benefits of honey extraction and coffee pollination (Vinci et al., 2018). The socio-environmental interactions between coffee plantation management decisions, the benefits these provide to both producing families and the environment, and the importance of bees and other pollinators, have driven the study of the coffee-bee agroecosystem from various perspectives. Ngo et al. (2011) developed a review on the role of different pollinators in coffee fruit setting and yield, highlighting the importance of honeybees (Apini) and stingless bees (Meliponini) in different coffee species. Other reviews focus on the value of biotic pollination in coffee plantations in relation to their structure (Moreaux et al., 2022), and the effects of climate change (Chain-Guadarrama et al., 2019). It is noted that pollinator diversity and frequency of visits are influenced by the landscape matrix, such as distance to nearby forests (González-Chaves et al., 2020; Moreaux et al., 2022), and by agronomic management practices, such as shade and crop intensification (Cepeda-Valencia et al., 2014).

These studies have contributed to the understanding of animal pollination in coffee yield and highlight the need to guide landscape management practices to enhance the resilience of coffee plantations in the face of climate change (Chain-Guadarrama *et al.*, 2019). The objective of this study was to analyze the incorporation of non-academic actors in research on bees in coffee agroecosystems in Latin America, in order to examine their participation in the different phases of the research process and to evaluate if there is an explicit intention to co-produce knowledge relevant to local contexts.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Despite the growing body of research on pollinators in crops and agroforestry systems (Centeno-Alvarado *et al.*, 2023; Requier *et al.*, 2023), various studies point out that a significant gap still exists between scientific knowledge, local knowledge, and public policies (Gemmill-Herren *et al.*, 2021), and they indicate that there is a need for research that integrates local knowledge on ecosystem services provided by pollinating insects (Rawluk and Saunders, 2019). Studies that are based on local perspectives and traditional and indigenous management practices contribute in this sense, as they document knowledge

and values of pollination (Toledo and Barrera-Bassols, 2017; Hill *et al.*, 2019), related to cultural and symbolic values, which maintain sustainable lifestyles (Hill *et al.*, 2019).

The integration of local, indigenous and peasant knowledge in the study of an agroecosystem can provide a better understanding and thus more effective governance (Hill *et al.*, 2019), involving knowledge aimed at solving problems of unsustainability (Norström *et al.*, 2020; Chambers *et al.*, 2021). Since agroecosystem management practices are strongly influenced by how we understand and relate to nature (Pascual *et al.*, 2023), pollinator conservation (sometimes represented by bee management) is also immersed in a gradient of choices and modes of landscape management. Therefore, the study of bees in agroecosystems allows observing different socio-environmental valuations of pollinators (Galetto *et al.*, 2022). However, moving towards a solution-oriented knowledge co-production requires recognizing the characteristics that a research process should strive for, in order to achieve the integration of local knowledge (Vilsmaier *et al.*, 2017; Reed *et al.*, 2018).

Among the efforts that have sought to recognize local or indigenous knowledge on pollinators, the Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on pollinators (IPBES, 2016) included dialogue workshops with local actors and subsequent spaces for collective reflection with scientists, decision makers and community experts, to re-signify their key messages in specific contexts (Malmer et al., 2019). Particularly, in Latin America, progress has been made in recognizing the cultural and economic value of stingless bees in indigenous communities (Quezada-Euán et al., 2018), and in documenting local knowledge about their management in agroforestry contexts (Reyes-González et al., 2014; Arnold et al., 2018). Likewise, other reviews have addressed coffee-pollinator interactions from ecological, landscape connectivity, and climate change perspectives (Chain-Guadarrama et al., 2019; Moreaux et al., 2022). However, the sustainability of coffee plantations in the region continues to be threatened by land use change and anthropogenic factors (Dicks et al., 2021; Harvey et al., 2021), requiring conservation strategies that recognize peasant knowledge systems as dynamic processes (Toledo and Barrera Bassols, 2008) and which promote not only technical analysis, but also emancipatory processes of territorial management (Aldasoro et al., 2019). For these strategies aimed at integrating other forms of knowledge, the term knowledge co-production (KCP) is very suitable. KCP encompasses several meanings, terminologies and practices, where Transdisciplinary Research (TDR) is included (Chambers et al., 2021). Transdisciplinary research, for its part, is a reflexive approach to research that seeks to understand complex problems, considering experiential and scientific perceptions, and emphasizing the co-construction of knowledge as well as transformation-oriented practices (Merçon, 2021).

Although they can be taken as equivalent terms (KCP and TDR), to refer to research approaches conducted by different actors and that are driven by a common purpose or problem (Norström et al., 2020; Pohl et al., 2021), particular quality criteria have been proposed for each approach (Scholz and Steiner, 2015). In this review, we adopt the notion of knowledge co-production derived from sustainability sciences (Miller and Wyborn, 2020; Norström et al., 2020), which for us also includes practices, skills, relationships and values that are equally important for collective co-production processes (Merçon, 2021). The KCP framework has provided methodological tools in research that seek to illustrate transitions towards sustainability (Chambers et al., 2021; Schneider et al., 2021), and critical positions on asymmetrical power relations with some social groups (Latulippe and Klenk, 2020; Turnhout et al., 2020). For its part, TDR has provided quality criteria to evaluate different stages of research processes (Lawrence et al., 2022), emphasizing the identification of the problem and the methodological choice. We adopt the term "non-academic actors" to describe social actors from various sectors outside academia, although we recognize that it is a term that reflects a language centered on academia (Vilsmaier et al., 2017).

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a meta-narrative review method to document studies on the coffee-bee agroecosystem in Latin America (Wong *et al.*, 2013; Snyder, 2019), which allowed integrating different research approaches for this type of agroecosystem and including publications that are not present in academic search engines, such as theses or papers (that is, gray literature).

Studies on the coffee-bee agroecosystem are those that address: (a) the diversity of bees and other pollinators, (b) the diversity of melliferous resources, (c) bee pollination networks (wild and managed), (d) bee management (*Apis mellifera* and Meliponini) and the processing or marketing of bee products from those hives, (e) coffee plantation management practices that seek to promote the diversity of melliferous resources, (f) economic and organizational analyses for the production and sale of hive products, and (g) local knowledge of hive management.

The review consisted of three phases: 1) literature search, 2) selection and 3) analysis (Figure 1).

A detailed description of the review process is available upon request from the authors.

1) Literature search: academic publications and gray literature (1990-2021) were identified in *Web of Science, SciELO, Redalyc* and *Google Scholar*, using

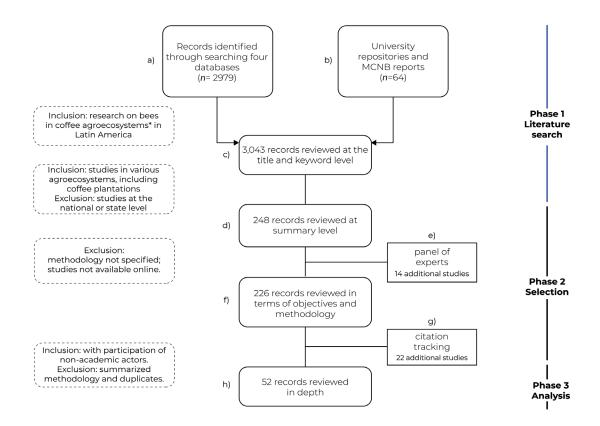


Figure 1. Summary of the semi-systematic review process.

keyword combinations in English and Spanish related to coffee, pollinators, and participatory approaches. University archives and proceedings from the Mesoamerican Congress of Native Bees (2009, 2011, 2013, 2019, 2021) were also included, resulting in 3,043 titles reviewed at the level of title and keyword.

2) Selection: 248 titles were reviewed at the level of abstract, excluding those without full access, without methodological description, or without participation of non-academic actors. To complement this search, a panel of experts on bees and agroecosystems in Latin America was convened, who, through structured interviews on coffee, participatory and transdisciplinary approaches, suggested 14 additional studies, including recent publications (2022) or those in the publishing process. Subsequently, the methodological tools and the degree of participation of non-academic actors in the design and implementation of each study were recorded. Those studies with active participation were analyzed in depth, selecting the record with the most complete methodology and tracking their citations electronically.

3) Analysis: Of the total number of records retrieved, 52 research studies with the participation of non-academic actors were selected for in-depth analysis. Those with summarized methodologies (such as papers and posters) were excluded. The analysis was structured based on the "Design Principles and Guiding Questions" by Lang *et al.* (2012), which synthesize key criteria for transdisciplinary research in sustainability (Table 1). Additionally, methodological elements described by Greenhalgh (2004) were adapted to classify the studies according to the type of objective: from descriptions of non-human elements to proposals for strategies linked to biocultural conservation.

Finally, the research objectives of each study were analyzed, classifying them according to the number of TDR elements mentioned, and according to the applicability of the objectives (from objectives that describe or characterize, to those that problematize or implement the research results).

RESULTS

Of the 52 records reviewed in depth, 59.6% were theses, 28.8% articles, 9.6% reports and other materials, and 1.9% book chapters. Mexico and Colombia stand out with 28.8% and 19.2% of the studies, respectively, which involved the participation of various actors (Figure 2). There has been a sustained increase in the production of research with the participation of non-academic actors, with a notable increase since 2011.

Table 1. Design principles for transdisciplinary research in sustainability science and related guiding questions (Lang *et al.*, 2012).

Phase A	Does it include diverse expertise to address the sustainability issue? Does framing of the research problem and objectives take place collectively? Is there a common understanding of the sustainability problem?		
	Is there a collaborative design of the methodology and does it take into account both the scientific and practical fields?		
Phase B	Are the tasks and roles of the actors involved in the research process clearly defined?		
	Does it employ and adjust appropriate methods to generate and integrate knowledge?		
Phase C	Are the project results implemented to resolve or mitigate the problem addressed? Are the results integrated into the existing scientific body of knowledge for transfer and scaling-up efforts?		
	Does the research team provide actors with products, publications, services, etc., in an appropriate manner and language?		
	What additional (unanticipated) positive effects are being accomplished?		
General	Is a formative evaluation being conducted which involves relevant experts related to the thematic field and transdisciplinary research (throughout the project)?		
	Do the researchers prepare for potential conflicts at the outset, and adopt processes to manage conflict when it arises?		
	Is adequate attention being given to the skills (material and intellectual) required for		
	effective and sustained participation in the project over time?		

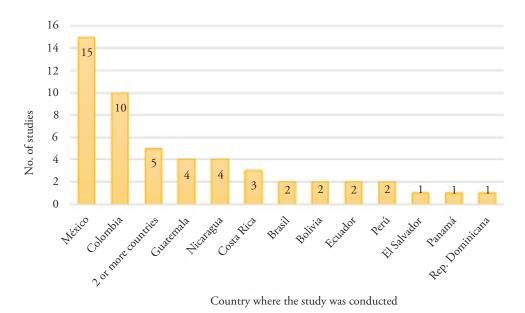


Figure 2. Research production by country with the participation of non-academic actors.

In relation to Phase A of TDR (problem statement and team building), we observed that most of the studies (63.5%) include two groups of actors, the group of academics and the producers with whom they are related (coffee growers or beekeepers). Usually, research that includes non-academic actors does not implement collaborative processes to define the research problem, or to design the methodology (Table 2).

Regarding Phase B (joint creation of knowledge), most (84.6%) of the studies do not define roles and tasks among the participating actors in the research, so the process is mainly carried out by the academic team, and in some cases by technicians or beekeepers who participate in data collection. Only in four studies, there is a joint definition of roles, positioning non-academic actors as protagonists of the process, together with a facilitating team. Four studies mention a collaborative design of the methodology which integrates scientific and practical fields.

Concerning Phase C (reintegration and application of the knowledge created), the studies generally do not mention any collective analysis or formal delivery of the information generated, and only present the results or recommendations for their application. However, 42.3% of the studies mentioned some process of feedback through workshops or materials.

In accordance with the general principles of TDR, it was observed that most of the studies did not apply evaluations (71.2%), nor did they prepare for possible conflicts (94.2%). Fifty-three percent (53%) of the studies considered activities

Table 2. Results in relation to the phases of Transdisciplinary Research.

Phase	Guiding question	No. of studies where it is NOT mentioned	No. of studies where it is mentioned	Examples of what is mentioned
A	Creation of a collaborative research team	33 (2 groups)	19 (3 or more groups)	Groups: academia; coffee growers/ beekeepers, farmers' organizations, civil associations, government
	Collaborative framing of the problem	39	13	Interviews, informational workshops, or description of the research objectives
	Collaborative design of the methodology	28	24	Interviews, participant observation, literature review
	Definition of tasks and roles	44	8	Technicians or beekeepers involved
В	Knowledge generation and integration	24	28	Interviews, informational workshops, or description of the research objectives
С	Implementation of results	10	42	Contributions to solve the problem, management status (beekeeping)
	Provides products, publications, or services to actors	30	22	Workshops, market studies, research notebooks, fact sheets, infographics, and workshops
	Achievement of objectives or additional positive effects	2	50	Some objective achieved, such as productive improvements, learning networks, meetings
General	Application of evaluations	37	15	Post-workshop surveys, self-evaluations
	Preparation for possible conflicts	49	3	Activities to seek participation, trust and confidence
	Attention to capabilities for effective and sustained participation	28	24	Recommendations in the conclusions

Source: prepared by authors based on the phases proposed by Lang *et al.* (2012), we break down the research according to the number of studies mentioned or not, with some examples.

to promote effective participation, highlighting the integration of diverse actors and the attention to cultural and pedagogical perceptions, as well as the importance of recognizing issues of leadership and network learning to sustain collective processes.

Research perspectives of the coffee-bee agroecosystem

With the analysis of the research objectives, four general types of studies with 11 specific lines of research were identified (Figure 3). In total, 74 research objectives described in the 52 studies were analyzed. On the horizontal axis, they were grouped according to the number of TDR elements mentioned. On the vertical axis, they were classified according to the applicability of the objectives. The "economy", "society" and "biosphere" fields illustrate areas of interaction of these objectives.

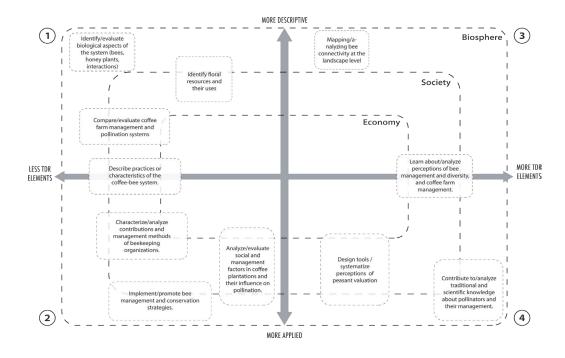


Figure 3. Classification of research objectives of the coffee-bee agroecosystem with non-academic actors.

The largest number of research objectives are found in quadrant 1 (more descriptive and with fewer TDR elements) and quadrant 2 (more applied, but with few TDR elements), n=36 and n=23, respectively. In these two types of studies, objectives aimed at describing and analyzing biotic and management elements stand out (Cepeda-Valencia *et al.*, 2014), as well as studies examining both peasant practices and the management of beekeeping organizations (Bathfield *et al.*, 2013). Additionally, there are studies focused on implementing strategies for the management or conservation of bees (Martínez, 2020).

The third quadrant (descriptive, but with TDR elements) included eight objectives aimed at understanding and mapping biological aspects (such as bee connectivity and landscape), and management perceptions (Martínez-Fortún, 2015; Luiza, 2020) (n=5). Unlike quadrants 1 and 2, these studies emphasize the importance of functional connectivity and integrate non-academic actors into the research at various stages. Finally, quadrant 4 (more applied and with more TDR elements) includes the studies (n=10) that integrate a large number of non-academic actors, systematize perceptions, analyze peasant valuations of the coffee-bee agroecosystem, and integrate a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach (Anderzén *et al.*, 2020; Luna *et al.*, 2022).

Findings and recommendations from the studies with more TDR elements

Some elements of the 15 studies with the highest number of TDR indicators were analyzed. These studies highlight the importance of integrating different group interests, and making the theoretical and methodological bases explicit, as well as the ethical and political aspects present in the narratives of participants (Restrepo, 2020). Furthermore, the importance of spaces for exchange or Peasant School models (López, 2019) that promote dialogue among participants is emphasized. In the cases where work was conducted with beekeepers' organizations, the importance of visualizing the organization as a whole (not only beekeepers but also peasants) was highlighted, as well as making explicit the asymmetric power relations in the collection and commercialization links (Delfin, 2011; López, 2019).

Regarding the contributions of non-academic actors to the understanding of problems in the coffee-bee agroecosystem, some pointed out deforestation and use of pesticides as the main causes for the decline of bees (Marques *et al.*, 2017). On the other hand, it is recognized that the diversity of trees –and bees– in the coffee plantation is associated with the priorities of coffee-growing families, particularly women, thus highlighting the importance of adopting gender and also intergenerational perspectives (Ramos, 2019; Martínez, 2021). Some studies with meliponiculturists (Martínez-Fortún, 2015; Luna *et al.*, 2022) emphasize that working with native bees promotes sensitivity to the agricultural context and environmental vulnerability, which motivates the reorganization of the territory in terms of the conservation of native bees and the invitation to consider them as agroecological indicators.

Among the recommendations for future research, emphasis is placed on designing projects aligned with local dynamics and worldviews (López, 2019), integrating indigenous pedagogical aspects and didactic resources for diverse actors (Delfin, 2011). Likewise, some authors (Luiza, 2020; Martínez, 2021) recommend investigating historical and territorial processes, to help in understanding the problems and possible tensions between the various actors involved. Although the incorporation of different levels of the government sector is recommended, it is important to have agreements for resource management and decision making, as well as to differentiate the management programs for *Apis mellifera* and stingless bees (Lara, 2021; Luna *et al.*, 2022).

DISCUSSION

The classification of the studies reviewed in depth according to their research objectives enabled the identification of the main approaches used to study the coffee-bee agroecosystem. Quadrants 1 and 2 (with fewer TDR

elements) showed that the participation of non-academic actors is focused on understanding the different contributions of bees and coffee plantations to humans. Other studies under these approaches expect that their data can be used to promote strategies and practices for pollinator conservation (Moreaux et al., 2022). However, pollination services to crops or payments for environmental services are insufficient to achieve the conservation of pollinators or coffee plantations (2015; Serafin-Castro et al., 2021). In addition, the economic valuation of pollination presents inconsistencies that can lead to scenarios where the benefits of pollination of a forest are fewer than the conversion to coffee cultivation in the same area (Magrach et al., 2019). In fact, when studying the relationship between agroecological practices and ecosystem services, this valuation points out that the application of practices such as the adoption of complex landscapes, field margins, or the application of covering on crops can decrease crop yields when compared to conventional practices (Palomo-Campesino et al., 2018). The above helps to observe that the framework of ecosystem services runs the risk of omitting other values and biocultural frameworks in its evaluations, which are important in the adoption and maintenance of sustainable practices. Among the efforts to integrate various methods of valuing nature, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services proposes value-centered approaches that can guide transformative changes that foster fairer and more sustainable relationships (Pascual et al., 2023).

Studies such as Cerdán (2012), Bathfield *et al.* (2013), and Anderzén *et al.* (2020) analyze the coffee plantation as part of the peasant agri-food system, where management decisions are associated with a broad socio-political context. In this sense, it is recognized that, although knowledge about pollinators can support the adoption of practices for their conservation (Osterman *et al.*, 2021), it is important to adopt management approaches, such as agroecology, that promote integrated agroforestry systems and bee management (Galetto *et al.*, 2022).

The analysis with the TDR guiding questions showed that, even in theses, there is little emphasis on methodological aspects of participation, such as role definition, formative evaluation, and conflict prevention. The importance of making explicit the positioning of research teams has been pointed out, both in the choice of the theoretical-methodological framework and in the generation of the research objectives (Chambers *et al.*, 2022), since decisions in their design and development are immersed in power relations, legitimacy dilemmas or conflicts of interest, with epistemological implications that must be recognized and addressed (Caniglia *et al.*, 2023). On the other hand, few studies have been found that integrate information related to collaborative

framing and the adaptation of methodology with the various actors. This points out an important distinction of research approaches such as PAR and TDR, where such a phase is considered key to foster knowledge co-production relevant to local contexts (Scholz and Steiner, 2015).

The research contributes to point out that the complexity and vulnerability of coffee agroecosystems in Latin America demand studies that dialogue around conceptualizations, languages, and applications with local knowledge (Hill *et al.*, 2019). Identifying the characteristics of the different studies and the underlying frameworks allows us to understand how the involvement of non-academic participants is conceived, and how to address the asymmetries of power inherent in any collaborative process (Turnhout *et al.*, 2020). This, in turn, can support a scientific paradigm shift (Wong *et al.*, 2013), focused on more meaningful ways of generating and sharing knowledge and understanding (Delgado and Rist, 2016).

Although the importance of KCP in strategies for pollinator conservation has been recognized (Galbraith *et al.*, 2017; Maderson, 2023), this analysis emphasizes the need for theoretical-methodological frameworks that promote a fundamental shift in research processes: from studies that integrate non-academic actors as informants to research that strengthens the tools and capacities of local collaborators, who are considered researchers and "owners" of the process (Chambers *et al.*, 2021). The success of science-policy interfaces for pollinator conservation depends on their credibility, pertinence and relevance in specific contexts (Malmer *et al.*, 2019), and on the coordination of mechanisms to promote transdisciplinary research (Bartomeus and Dicks, 2019).

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of research with non-academic actors in the study of bees in coffee agroecosystems in Latin America allowed us to observe several levels of participation of non-academic actors in their design and execution. It was identified that most of the studies that incorporated non-academic actors did so mainly as informants or data sources, without them being actively involved in the formulation of problems or in methodological design. However, a small group of studies showed a deeper integration of local knowledge. These studies stood out because they included the interests of diverse social groups, recognizing the multiple perspectives and priorities of the parties involved, and making explicit the theoretical and methodological foundations of the research process. They also consciously addressed ethical and political aspects, particularly power imbalances, and they promoted spaces for dialogue and equitable exchange between academic and non-academic actors,

such as those observed in the experiences with peasant schools. Regarding the review process, integrating various relationships between bees and coffee plantations in the search criteria allowed for a broader assessment of bees and hive management; not only as an ecosystem service for coffee pollination or as a productive activity, but also as part of the livelihoods of the families who inhabit and manage the coffee plantations.

Although the studies analyzed contribute to the KCP on bees in coffee plantations, it was considered that, given the growing socioecological crises of these agroecosystems, it is important for more studies to seek their articulation and relevance in local contexts, and to establish KCP processes directed at generating solutions. In this sense, it is recommended to integrate non-academic actors in future studies that: a) consider the diverse knowledge, life histories and management practices in the methodological design of the research; b) recognize that starting from pre-established objectives is different from reconciling research concerns with those of the groups, based on the reflections of the people who problematize or express their needs; this way, studies can become more relevant; c) design the techniques or tools to generate qualitative information, based on the system of study and local particularities; participatory mapping and interviews can be used to explore interests from which joint objectives are set; d) take care of time, resources and logistics, to generate participation; seek financing; e) establish relationships beyond the academic sphere and take care of emotional and affective bonds; f) reward the attention of the people involved by conducting workshops that address potential knowledge gaps and observed needs; g) promote and ensure communication; h) propose evaluations of the research process from the start; i) encourage cocreation from the beginning, avoiding fragmented compilation; j) formulate long-term participatory research to understand the sociocultural dimensions and effects of climate change on bee management; k) seek to communicate the results in relevant ways to participants, acknowledging their authorship.

Among the main limitations of the review, the geographical bias derived from the place of origin of the authors stands out, as well as the low participation of the panel of international experts and the exclusion of searches in Portuguese. In addition, the selection of key terms limited the inclusion of anthropological or historical approaches. Despite efforts to integrate gray literature, an underrepresentation of reports from civil and governmental organizations was identified, possibly due to publication barriers and different priorities (Lokot and Wake, 2023). Finally, applying TDR evaluation criteria to studies not designed with this approach could introduce biases; it was useful to understand how non-academic actors are being integrated at different stages of the research and whether or not there is an intention to co-produce knowledge. Building

links between academic and non-academic actors requires methodologies, resources and funding schemes that recognize epistemic diversity and of practices. This review highlights the need for transdisciplinary approaches in the study of pollinators and underlines the importance of promoting spaces for intercultural dialogue that legitimize and articulate local and scientific knowledge through relevant and accessible languages.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The first author acknowledges the Program in Sustainability Sciences, UNAM (Posgrado en Ciencias de la Sostenibilidad, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México). We thank Natalia Aristizábal, Guillermo Vázquez, Alejandro Reyes, Janica Anderzen, Guiomar Nates-Parra, Adina Chain-Guadarrama, Patricia Landaverde, and Natalia Escobedo for their participation in the panel of experts. Jaime Paneque-Gálvez thanks the DGAPA-UNAM for the support received through the PAPIIT project IN304221.

REFERENCES

- Aldasoro M, Rodriguez U, Van der H, Morales H, Ferguson B, Rayas J, Martínez ML, Avilez T. 2019. 1er congreso de Agroecología. Explorando una Agroecología Pedantropológica: Meliponicultura talleres agroecológicos y huertos escolares en Tabasco. El Colegio de la Frontera Sur.
- Anderzén J, Guzmán A, Luna-González DV, Merrill SC, Caswell M, Méndez VE, Hernández R, Mier y Terán M. 2020. Effects of on-farm diversification strategies on smallholder coffee farmer food security and income sufficiency in Chiapas Mexico. Journal of Rural Studies. 77. 33-46. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2020.04.001.
- Arnold N, Zepeda R, Vásquez M, Aldasoro M. 2018. Las abejas sin aguijón y su cultivo en Oaxaca, México: Con catálogo de especies. El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, CONABIO: México, https://www.ecosur.mx/libros/producto/las-abejas-sin-agujon-y-su-cultivo-en-oaxaca-mexico-con-catalogo-de-especies/. 193 p.
- Bartomeus I, Dicks LV. 2019. The need for coordinated transdisciplinary research infrastructures for pollinator conservation and crop pollination resilience. Environmental Research Letters, 14(4). 045017. https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ab0cb5.
- Bathfield B, Gasselin P, López-Ridaura S, Vandame R. 2013. A flexibility framework to understand the adaptation of small coffee and honey producers facing market shocks. The Geographical Journal, 179(4). 356-368. https://doi.org/10.1111/geoj.12004.
- Caniglia G, Freeth R, Luederitz C, Leventon J, West SP, John B, Peukert D, Lang DJ, Von Wehrden H, Martín-López B, Fazey I, Russo F, Von Wirth T, Schlüter M, Vogel C. 2023. Practical wisdom and virtue ethics for knowledge co-production in sustainability science. Nature Sustainability 6(5). 493-501. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-022-01040-1.
- Centeno-Alvarado D, Lopes AV, Arnan X. 2023. Fostering pollination through agroforestry: A global review. Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment, 351. 108478. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2023.108478.
- Cepeda-Valencia J, Gómez PD, Nicholls C. 2014. La estructura importa: Abejas visitantes del café y estructura agroecológica principal (EAP) en cafetales. Revista Colombiana de Entomología, 40(2). 241-250. http://www.scielo.org.co/pdf/rcen/v40n2/v40n2a18.pdf.
- Cerdán CR, Rebolledo MC, Soto G, Rapidel B, Sinclair FL 2012. Local knowledge of impacts of tree cover on ecosystem services in smallholder coffee production systems. Agricultural Systems, 110. 119-130. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2012.03.014.
- Cerdán CR 2012. Local knowledge regarding trade-offs among coffee productivity and other ecosystem services in a range of different agroforestry systems in Central America. Tesis

- de doctorado. CATIE y Bangor University. Costa Rica. https://repositorio.catie.ac.cr/handle/11554/5301.
- Chain-Guadarrama A, Martínez-Salinas A, Aristizábal N, Ricketts TH. 2019. Ecosystem services by birds and bees to coffee in a changing climate: A review of coffee berry borer control and pollination. Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment. 280. 53-67. https://doi.org/10.1016/j. agee.2019.04.011.
- Chambers JM, Wyborn C, Ryan ME, Reid RS, Riechers M, Serban A, Bennett NJ, Cvitanovic C, Fernández-Giménez ME, Galvin KA, Goldstein BE, Klenk NL, Tengö M, Brennan R, Cockburn JJ, Hill R, Munera C, Nel JL, Österblom H, Pickering T. 2021. Six modes of co-production for sustainability. Nature Sustainability. 4. 983-996. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-021-00755-x.
- Chambers JM, Wyborn C, Klenk NL, Ryan M, Serban A, Bennett NJ, Brennan R, Charli-Joseph L, Fernández-Giménez ME, Galvin KA, Goldstein BE, Haller T, Hill R, Munera C, Nel JL, Österblom H, Reid RS, Riechers M, Spierenburg M, Rondeau R. 2022. Co-productive agility and four collaborative pathways to sustainability transformations. Global Environmental Change. 72. 102422. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2021.102422.
- Delfin Y. 2011. Contribución de organizaciones de productores a la sustentabilidad de sus territorios, Guaya'b (Guatemala) y Maya Vinic (Chiapas). Tesis de maestría. El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, México. https://ecosur.repositorioinstitucional.mx/jspui/handle/1017/1667
- Delgado F y Rist S (eds). 2016. Ciencias, diálogo de saberes y transdisciplinariedad. Aportes teórico metodológicos para la sustentabilidad alimentaria y del desarrollo. Plural editores: Bolivia, https://redglocal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Delgado-y-Rist-Ciencias-dialogo-de-saberes1_compressed.pdf. 377 p.
- Dicks LV, Breeze TD, Ngo HT, Senapathi D, An J, Aizen MA, Basu P, Buchori D, Galetto L, Garibaldi LA, Gemmill-Herren B, Howlett BG, Imperatriz-Fonseca VL, Johnson SD, Kovács-Hostyánszki A, Kwon YJ, Lattorff HMG, Lungharwo T, Seymour CL, Potts SG. 2021. A global-scale expert assessment of drivers and risks associated with pollinator decline. Nature Ecology & Evolution 5. 1453-1461. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-021-01534-9.
- Galbraith SM, Hall TE, Tavárez HS, Kooistra CM, Ordoñez JC & Bosque-Pérez NA. 2017. Local ecological knowledge reveals effects of policy-driven land use and cover change on beekeepers in Costa Rica. Land Use Policy, 69. 112-122. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landuse-pol.2017.08.032.
- Galetto L, Aizen MA, Del Coro M, Freitas BM, Garibaldi LA, Giannini TC, Lopes AV, Do Espírito Santo MM, Maués MM, Nates-Parra G, Rodríguez JI, Quezada-Euán JJG, Vandame R, Viana BF, Imperatriz-Fonseca VL. 2022. Risks and opportunities associated with pollinators' conservation and management of pollination services in Latin America. Ecología Austral, 32(1). 055-076. https://doi.org/10.25260/EA.22.32.1.0.1790.
- Gemmill-Herren B, Garibaldi LA, Kremen C, Ngo HT. 2021. Building effective policies to conserve pollinators: Translating knowledge into policy. Current Opinion in Insect Science, 46. 64-71. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cois.2021.02.012.
- González-Chaves A, Jaffé R, Metzger JP, De M P Kleinert A. 2020. Forest proximity rather than local forest cover affects bee diversity and coffee pollination services. Landscape Ecology, 35. 1841-1855. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10980-020-01061-1.
- Harvey CA, Pritts AA, Zwetsloot MJ, Jansen K, Pulleman MM, Armbrecht I, Avelino J, Barrera JF, Bunn C, Hoyos J, Isaza C, Munoz-Ucros J, Pérez-Alemán CJ, Rahn E, Robiglio V, Somarriba E, Valencia V. 2021. Transformation of coffee-growing landscapes across Latin America. A review. Agronomy for Sustainable Development, 41. 62. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13593-021-00712-0.
- Hill R, Nates-Parra G, Quezada-Euán JJG, Buchori D, LeBuhn G, Maués MM, Pert PL, Kwapong PK, Saeed S, Breslow SJ, Carneiro da Cunha M, Dicks LV, Galetto L, Gikungu M, Howlett BG, Imperatriz-Fonseca VL, O'B Lyver P, Martín-López B, Oteros-Rozas E, Roué M. 2019. Biocultural approaches to pollinator conservation. Nature Sustainability, 2. 214-222. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-019-0244-z.
- IPBES. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. 2016. The assessment report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversi-

- ty and Ecosystem Services on pollinators, pollination and food production. Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Bonn, Alemania, https://files.ipbes.net/ipbes-web-prod-public-files/spm_deliverable_3a_pollination_20170222.pdf. pp. 36.
- Lang DJ, Wiek A, Bergmann M, Stauffacher M, Martens P, Moll P, Swilling M, Thomas CJ. 2012. Transdisciplinary research in sustainability science: Practice, principles, and challenges. Sustainability Science, 7(S1). 25-43. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-011-0149-x.
- Lara A. 2021. Apropiación de la meliponicultura en comunidades nahuas de la Sierra de Zongolica, Veracruz. Tesis de Licenciatura. Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Zongolica. México.
- Latulippe N, Klenk N. 2020. Making room and moving over: Knowledge co-production, Indigenous knowledge sovereignty and the politics of global environmental change decision-making. Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, 42. 7-14. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2019.10.010.
- Lokot M, Wake C. 2023. NGO-academia research co-production in humanitarian settings: Opportunities and challenges. Disasters, 47(2). 464-481. https://doi.org/10.1111/disa.12556.
- López G. 2019. Ser y Estar bien campesino, un reto para las Organizaciones. Tesis de maestría. El Colegio de la Frontera Sur. México. https://ecosur.repositorioinstitucional.mx/jspui/bitstream/1017/2508/1/36271_Documento.pdf.
- Luiza B. 2020. La conectividad funcional y los servicios ecosistémicos proporcionados por abejas en los agropaisajes del Corredor Biológico Volcánica Central Talamanca, Costa Rica. Tesis de Máster. CATIE, Costa Rica. https://repositorio.catie.ac.cr/handle/11554/9856.
- Luna Y, Aldasoro EM, Vides E, Morales H, Rosset P. 2022. Crianza de abejas nativas: Una pedagogía agroecológica con raíces. Revista Brasileira de Educação do Campo, 7. 1-27. https://doi.org/10.20873/uft.rbec.e14508.
- Maderson S. 2023. Co-producing agricultural policy with beekeepers: Obstacles and opportunities. Land Use Policy, 128. 106603. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2023.106603.
- Magrach A, Champetier A, Krishnan S, Boreux V, Ghazoul J. 2019. Uncertainties in the value and opportunity costs of pollination services. Journal of Applied Ecology, 56(7). 1549-1559. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.13399.
- Malmer P, Tengö M (eds), Fernández-Llamazares A, Woodward E, Crawhall N, Hill R, Trakansuphakon P, Athayde S, Cariño C, Crimella D, Farhan M, Pérez E, Spencer R, Trakansuphakon N, Bicksler A, Cariño J, Gonzalo E, Lengoisa J, Lungharwo T, Tahi B. 2019. Dialogue across Indigenous, local and scientific knowledge systems reflecting on the IPBES Assessment on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production, 21th to 25th January 2019, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, Thailand. Workshop report. SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm: Sweden, https://swed.bio/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/7017-0033-SRC-Report-Pollinators-dialouge_WEB.pdf. 76 p.
- Marques MF, Hautequestt AP, Oliveira UB, Manhães-Tavares VF, Perkles OR, Zappes CA & Gaglianone MC. 2017. Local knowledge on native bees and their role as pollinators in agricultural communities. Journal of Insect Conservation, 21. 345-356. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10841-017-9981-3.
- Martínez-Fortún MS. 2015. Desarrollo sostenible y conservación etnoecológica a través de la meliponicultura, en el sur de Ecuador. Tesis de Máster. Universidad Internacional de Andalucía, España. https://dspace.unia.es/handle/10334/3519.
- Martínez LC 2020. Estrategia cultural para la conservación y producción de abejas (Apis mellifera) en el sector Porvenir Las Rositas del municipio de Arbeláez. Tesis de Licenciatura en zootecnia. Universidad de Cundinamarca, Colombia. https://repositorio.ucundinamarca.edu.co/handle/20.500.12558/3476.
- Martínez LR 2021. Abejas silvestres en cafetales de sombra: Una visión ecológica y campesina. Tesis de Maestría en Ciencias. Instituto de Ecología.
- Méndez VE, Bacon CM, Olson M, Morris KS, Shattuck A. 2010. Agrobiodiversity and Shade Coffee Smallholder Livelihoods: A Review and Synthesis of Ten Years of Research in Central America. The Professional Geographer, 62(3). 357-376. https://doi.org/10.1080/00330124.201 0.483638.
- Merçon J (Ed.). 2021. Investigación transdisciplinaria e investigación-acción participativa: Cono-

- cimiento y acción para la transformación. Vol. 2. CopIt-arXives, Conacyt e Instituto de Física de la UNAM: México, https://copitarxives.fisica.unam.mx/SC0008ES/SC0008ES.pdf. pp. 201.
- Miller CA, Wyborn C. 2020. Co-production in global sustainability: Histories and theories. Environmental Science & Policy, 113. 88-95. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2018.01.016.
- Moreaux C, Meireles DAL, Sonne J, Badano EI, Classen A, González-Chaves A, Hipólito J, Klein AM, Maruyama PK, Metzger JP, Philpott SM, Rahbek C, Saturni FT, Sritongchuay T, Tscharntke T, Uno S, Vergara CH, Viana BF, Strange N, Dalsgaard B. 2022. The value of biotic pollination and dense forest for fruit set of Arabica coffee: A global assessment. Agriculture Ecosystems & Environment, 323. 107680. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2021.107680.
- Ngo HT, Mojica AC, Packer L. 2011. Coffee plant pollinator interactions: A review. Canadian Journal of Zoology, 89(8). 647-660. https://doi.org/10.1139/z11-028.
- Norström AV, Cvitanovic C, Löf MF, West S, Wyborn C, Balvanera P, Bednarek AT, Bennett EM, Biggs R, de Bremond A, Campbell BM, Canadell JG, Carpenter SR, Folke C, Fulton EA, Gaffney O, Gelcich S, Jouffray JB, Leach M, Österblom H. 2020. Principles for knowledge co-production in sustainability research. Nature Sustainability, 3. 182-190. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-019-0448-2.
- Osterman J, Landaverde-González P, Garratt MPD, Gee M, Mandelik Y, Langowska A, Miñarro M, Cole LJ, Eeraerts M, Bevk D, Avrech O, Koltowski Z, Trujillo-Elisea FI, Paxton RJ, Boreux V, Seymour CL, Howlett BG. 2021. On-farm experiences shape farmer knowledge perceptions of pollinators and management practices. Global Ecology and Conservation, 32. e01949. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2021.e01949.
- Palomo-Campesino S, González JA, García-Llorente M. 2018. Exploring the Connections between Agroecological Practices and Ecosystem Services: A Systematic Literature Review. Sustainability, 10(12). 4339. https://doi.org/10.3390/su10124339.
- Pascual U, Balvanera P, Anderson CB, Chaplin-Kramer R, Christie M, González-Jiménez D, Martin A, Raymond CM, Termansen M, Vatn A, Athayde S, Baptiste B, Barton DN, Jacobs S, Kelemen E, Kumar R, Lazos E, Mwampamba TH, Nakangu B, Zent E. 2023. Diverse values of nature for sustainability. Nature, 620. 813-823. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06406-9.
- Perfecto I, Vandermeer JH. 2015. Coffee agroecology: A new approach to understanding agricultural biodiversity, ecosystem services and sustainable development. Routledge Eartscan: London, https://archive.org/details/coffeeagroecolog0000perf. 336 p.
- Pohl C, Klein JT, Hoffmann S, Mitchell C, Fam D. 2021. Conceptualising transdisciplinary integration as a multidimensional interactive process. Environmental Science & Policy, 118. 18-26. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2020.12.005.
- Quezada-Euán JJG, Nates-Parra G, Maués MM, Roubik DW, Imperatriz-Fonseca VL. 2018. The economic and cultural values of stingless bees (Hymenoptera: Meliponini) among ethnic groups of tropical America. Sociobiology, 65(4). 534-557. https://doi.org/10.13102/sociobiology.v65i4.3447.
- Ramos S. 2019. Árboles de sombra y abejas nativas en cafetales con manejo agroecológico en Amatlán de los Reyes e Ixhuatlán del Café, Veracruz. Tesis de maestría. Colegio de Postgraduados, México. https://vidaycafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019_Tesis_Arboles-Abejas-Nativas-Cafetal-Agroecologico.pdf.
- Rawluk A, Saunders ME. 2019. Facing the gap: Exploring research on local knowledge of insect-provided services in agroecosystems. International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability, 17(1). 108-117. https://doi.org/10.1080/14735903.2019.1567244.
- Reed MS, Vella S, Challies E, De Vente J, Frewer L, Hohenwallner-Ries D, Huber T, Neumann RK, Oughton EA, Sidoli J, Van Delden H. 2018. A theory of participation: What makes stakeholder and public engagement in environmental management work? Restoration Ecology, 26(S1). 7-17. https://doi.org/10.1111/rec.12541.
- Requier F, Pérez-Méndez N, Andersson GKS, Blareau E, Merle I, Garibaldi LA. 2023. Bee and non-bee pollinator importance for local food security. Trends in Ecology & Evolution, 38(2). 196-205. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2022.10.006.
- Restrepo JC. 2020. Relatos que emergen en un grupo de estudiantes cuando indaga acerca de la disminución de los polinizadores: Un espacio pedagógico construido desde la ética en-acción. Tesis de Maestría. Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia. https://bibliotecadigital.udea.

- edu.co/handle/10495/16152.
- Reyes-González A, Camou-Guerrero A, Reyes-Salas O, Argueta A, Casas A. 2014. Diversity, local knowledge and use of stingless bees (Apidae: Meliponini) in the municipality of Nocupétaro, Michoacan, Mexico. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine, 10. 47. https://doi.org/10.1186/1746-4269-10-47.
- Roubik DW. 2002. The value of bees to the coffee harvest. Nature, 417. 708. https://doi.org/10.1038/417708a.
- Schneider F, Tribaldos T, Adler C, Biggs R, De Bremond A, Buser T, Krug C, Loutre MF, Moore S, Norström AV, Paulavets K, Urbach D, Spehn E, Wülser G, Zondervan R. 2021. Coproduction of knowledge and sustainability transformations: A strategic compass for global research networks. Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, 49. 127-142. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2021.04.007.
- Scholz RW, Steiner G. 2015. The real type and ideal type of transdisciplinary processes: Part I—theoretical foundations. Sustainability Science, 10. 527-544. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-015-0326-4.
- Serafín-Castro AM, Cortina-Villar S, Monzón-Alvarado C, Segura-Pacheco HR. 2021. ¿Favorecen los pagos por servicios ambientales el mantenimiento de las huertas cafetaleras? Evidencia del Ejido de San Vicente de Benítez, Guerrero, México. Estudios Sociales. Revista de Alimentación Contemporánea y Desarrollo Regional, 31(58). 1-26. https://doi.org/10.24836/es.v31i58.1152.
- Snyder H. 2019. Literature review as a research methodology: An overview and guidelines. Journal of Business Research, 104. 333-339. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2019.07.039.
- Toledo VM, Barrera-Bassols N. 2008. La memoria biocultural: La importancia ecológica de la sabidurías tradicionales. Icaria Editorial: Barcelona, España, https://www.uv.mx/orizaba/mgas/files/2016/03/memoria-biocultural.pdf. 230 p.
- Toledo V, Barrera-Bassols N. 2017. Political Agroecology in Mexico: A Path toward Sustainability. Sustainability, 9(2). 268. https://doi.org/10.3390/su9020268.
- Turnhout E, Metze T, Wyborn C, Klenk N, Louder E. 2020. The politics of co-production: Participation, power, and transformation. Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, 42. 15-21. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2019.11.009.
- Vilsmaier U, Brandner V, Engbers M. 2017. Research In-between: The Constitutive Role of Cultural Differences in Transdisciplinarity. Transdisciplinary Journal of Engineering & Science, 8: 169-179. https://doi.org/10.22545/2017/00093.
- Vinci G, Rapa M, Roscioli F. 2018. Sustainable Development in Rural Areas of Mexico through Beekeeping. International Journal of Science and Engineering Invention, 4(6). 1-7. https://doi.org/10.23958/ijsei/vol04-i08/01.
- Wong G, Greenhalgh T, Westhorp G, Buckingham J, Pawson R. 2013. RAMESES publication standards: Meta-narrative reviews. BMC Medicine, 11. 20. https://doi.org/10.1186/1741-7015-11-20.