Have a look at the second annual B-GOOD newsletter!

B-GOOD Research: Heritability of resistance against viruses in honey bees

An article recently published in the Nature Scientific Reports journal analyses the heritabilities of resistance against viruses spread by Varroa on honey bees.

The paper called "Heritability estimates of the novel trait 'suppressed in ovo virus infection' in honey bees (*Apis mellifera*)" presents a novel trait in honey bees associated with heritability of viral infections suppression. The study focuses on honey bee viruses that are related to the *Varroa destructor*, which is considered to be an efficient vector for viruses affecting bee health.

The research team, lead by B-GOOD coordinator Prof. Dirk de Graaf and including B-GOOD researchers Dr. Lina De Smet and David Claeys Boúúaert, focuses on vertical transmission of viruses between bees by the passing of an infectious agent from parent to offspring via eggs and semen.

B-GOOD partners at the 16th COLOSS eConference

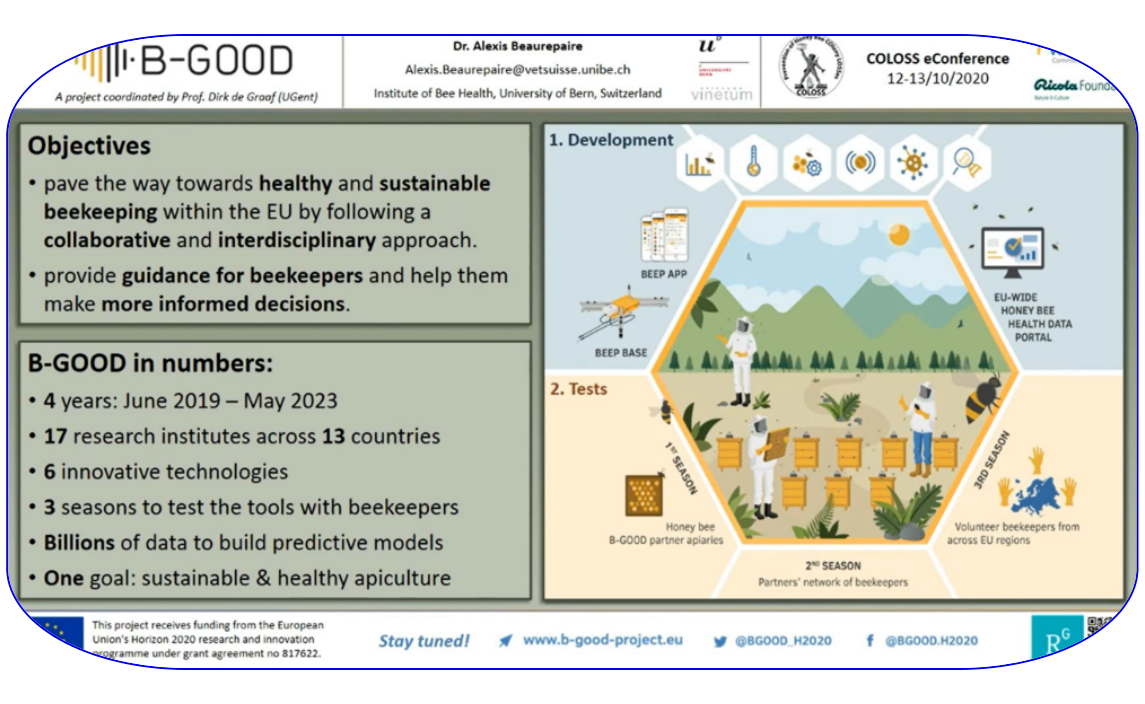
B-GOOD researchers Marten Schoonman, Alexis Beaurepaire, Mang Xu, and David Claeys Boúúaert presented at the 16th COLOSS eConference 2020, which took place online on 12-13 October 2020.

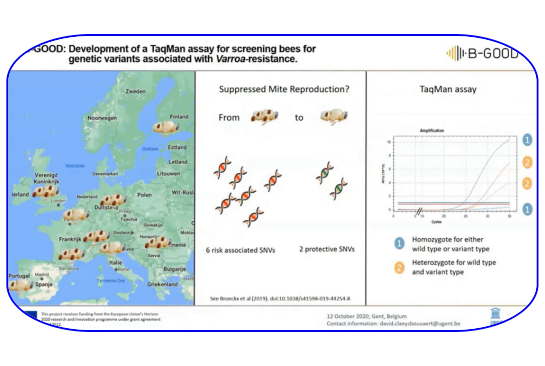
Marten Schoonmann of the BEEP Foundation made a one-slide presentation of the BEEP app and the main features that it provides.

Alexis Beaurepaire of the University of Bern, presented a short overview of the B-GOOD project and its main objectives and outcomes.

Mang Xu of Wageningen University and Research spoke about fast and on-site detection of bee harming pesticides. She explained the technology behind neonicotinoid lateral flow devices (LFDs).

David Claeys Boúúaert of the University of Ghent, Belgium, spoke about the development of TaqMan assay for screening bees for genetic variants associated with Varroa-resistance.





New B-GOOD project videos on YouTube

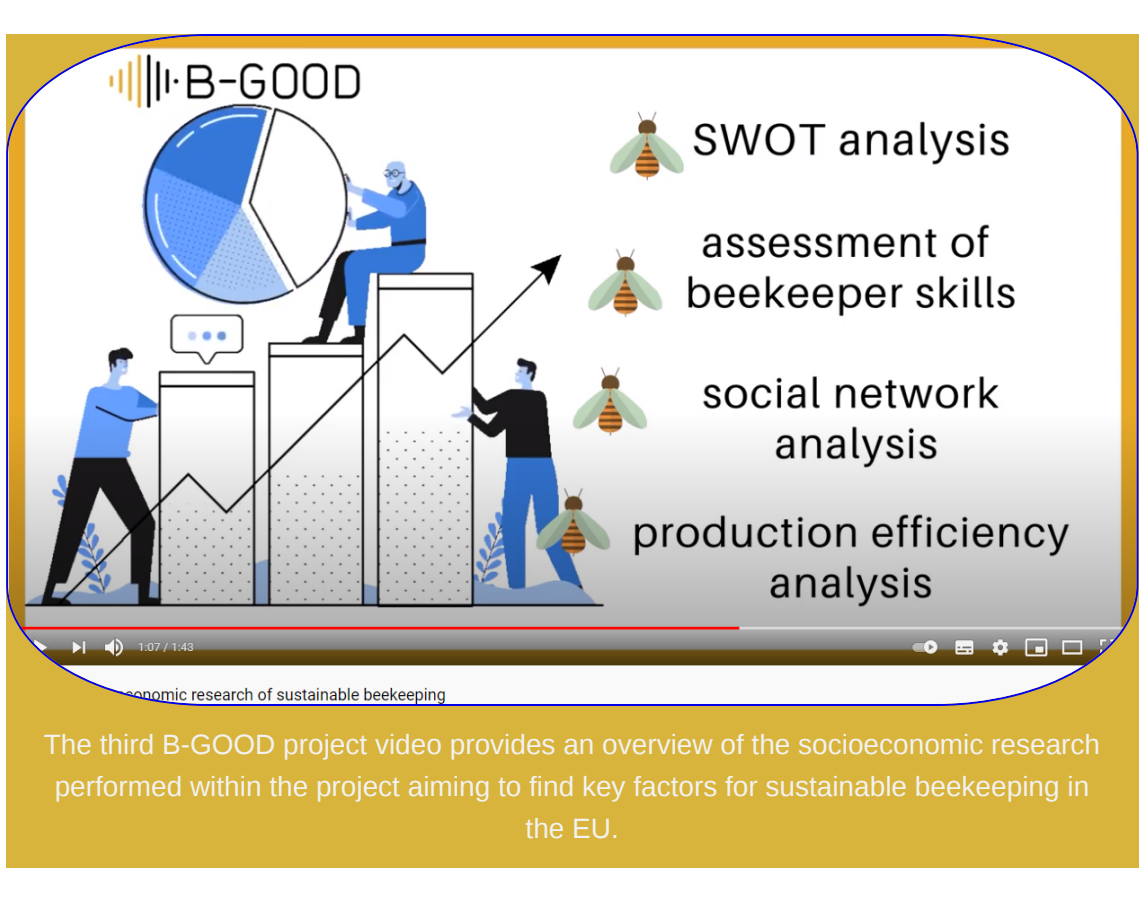
In 2020 we launched a B-GOOD video series featuring experts working on the project, in order to provide a clear overview of B-GOOD's objectives, methodology and progress.

The second video in this rubric features B-GOOD partners Coby van Dooremalen (Wageningen University and Research), Martin Bencsik (Nottingham Trent University), Marten Schoonman (BEEP Foundation), and Christopher John Topping (Aarhus University), who discuss the aspects of data collection and honeybee hive monitoring.

The second video of the B-GOOD rubric aims to reflect the project's expected outputs and plan for action. The video features B-GOOD's experts who discuss the aspects of data collection and honeybee hive monitoring.

The third video sets a focus on the socioeconomic research performed by the team of Wim Verbeke (Ghent university), who discusses the socio-economic aspects of beekeeping and the socioeconomic research performed within B-GOOD.

Upcoming videos are going to feature an overview of different field and semi-field experiments, as well as updates on the general development of the project, and the multi-actor forum!



The third B-GOOD project video provides an overview of the socioeconomic research performed within the project aiming to find key factors for sustainable beekeeping in the EU.

Launch of the Bee Health Data Portal

The B-GOOD data portal aims to provide a data sharing hub for project partners. It is designed based on the data storage and retrieval needs of partners.

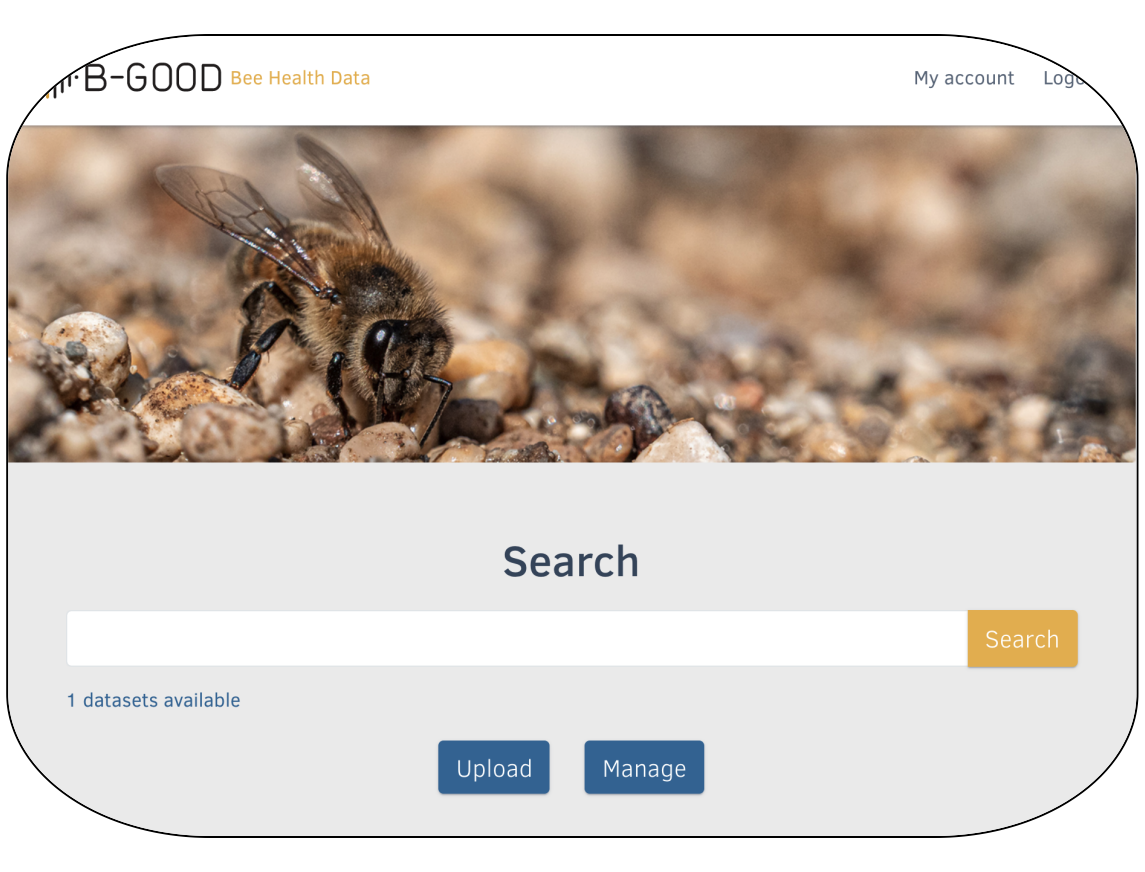
What is the Data Poral about?

This data portal website is used to store and share B-GOOD datasets. The main purpose of the portal is to store raw and pre-processed data generated in the B-GOOD project. Datasets can be uploaded and retrieved depending on the access rights. An account is required to be able to use the portal. Every B-GOOD partner organisation has access to the data portal.

What data does it include?

A dataset can consist of multiple files, as well as metadata used to describe the datasets. The portal supports a large variation of file types. Where and when possible, datasets are shared openly. The data collected is mainly honeybee colony haelth data generated by B-GOOD partners.

Looking forward to seeing you and your data on the Bee Health Data Portal of B-GOOD!



B-GOOD featured on EIP-AGRI Beekeeping Report

The B-GOOD project is part of the final report of EIP-AGRI's Focus Group on bee health and sustainable beekeeping. Experts from the Agricultural European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) Focus Group have explored the question how can the sustainability of beekeeping be ensured in the face of challenges linked to pests and diseases, intensification of agriculture and climate change.

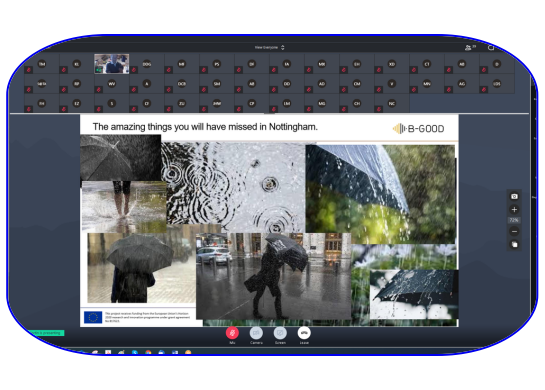
The report came out on 8 September 2020 and addresses latest advances in the field of sustainable beekeeping. It frames key issues and points out good practices on the topics of bee health, interaction with landscape, and beekeeper knowledge and skills.

EIP-AGRI works to foster competitive and sustainable farming and forestry. It aims to contribute to ensuring a steady supply of food, feed and biomaterials, developing its work in harmony with the essential natural resources on which farming depends.

B-GOOD Consortium Meetings in 2020

In light of the travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the third and fourth B-GOOD Consortium Meetings took place online. Project members and representatives of the B-GOOD multi-actor forum met up online between 6 - 7 July 2020, and 14 - 16 December 2020.

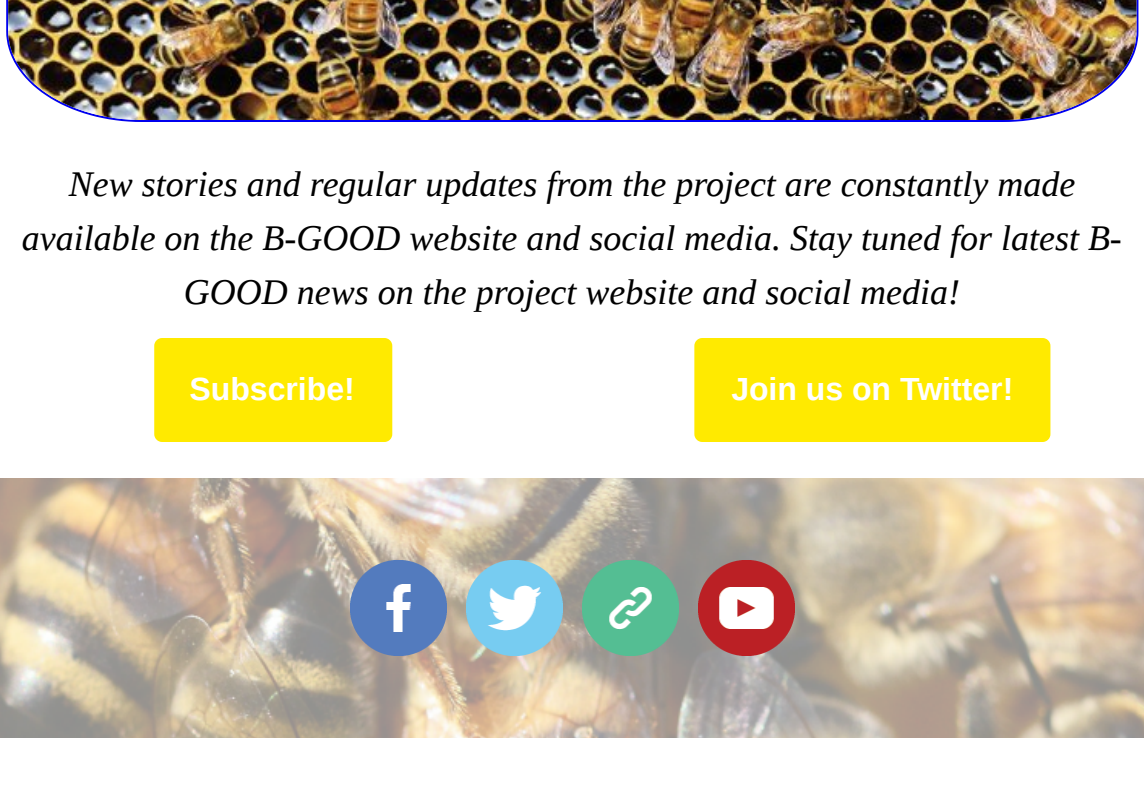
The online meetings were marked by insightful presentations, vivid discussions and an overview of the project's developments and future initiatives. Partners presented the research conducted within the different tasks of the project. Progress and future actions were discussed, and future steps for researchers were outlined.



Feature: The future of intelligent beehives

B-GOOD was featured in an article of the Portuguese "JN Magazine". The column titled "The first days of intelligent beehives" highlights the project's aim of a more sustainable and informed beekeeping and discusses the development of the BEEP technology: the digital checklist app where a beekeeper can register their inspections & the automatic bee measurement system that beekeepers can place under the hive.

The interview features Prof. José Paulo Sousa, who is a senior researcher at the Centre for Functional Ecology of the University of Coimbra. Paulo also represented the project in the "90 Seconds of Science" broadcast featuring B-GOOD.



New stories and regular updates from the project are constantly made available on the B-GOOD website and social media. Stay tuned for latest B-GOOD news on the project website and social media!

Subscribe! | Join us on Twitter!