



# ESG



**A commitment to sustainable cultivation is at the hallmark of leading European herb supplier, ESG. Founded and run by Erhard Schiele, ESG in Hammlar in Bavaria, Germany, specialises in growing and supplying herbs, working with 100 farmers to supply around 200 tonnes of herbs annually for Unilever.**



An awareness of environmental issues saw ESG build their own biogas plant in 2004, allowing them to ingeniously transform the herb stems which are a by-product of producing kitchen herbs into energy and heat, so cutting down on fuel consumption and carbon emissions.



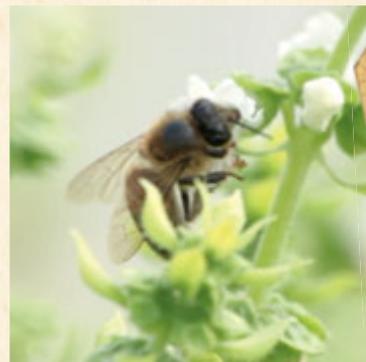
ESG's latest sustainability project in partnership with Knorr is aimed at helping bees. With bee populations declining alarmingly around the world, ESG have decided that it is their responsibility to protect these small insects which play such an essential role in fertilising plants. "We think it's vital for all of us to save bees," explains Melanie Schiele, Marketing Manager of ESG, "so, as an agricultural enterprise, we want to do what we can to protect them."

With bee-friendly farming as the aim, a trial funded by ESG and Knorr is being carried out on Ethard Schiele's personal parsley fields testing a new organic spray called Greenline\*. While controlling pests, Greenline\* does not adversely affect bees and, furthermore, leaves no residues and does not contaminate ground water. ESG are also

creating border strips on their fields, planting them with the flowers that bees love to create a habitat which will encourage bees and other wildlife to flourish.

"It's an expensive project and won't be easy, so the financial support that Knorr is giving us for this is very useful." The trials, which are taking place in the summer of 2011, will be monitored by the University of Hohenheim. If the results are positive for the bee population, ESG and the farmers who work with them are planning to use Greenline\* and introduce border strips.

Supporting bees in this way is important personally for Erhard Schiele, who was a farmer before he founded ESG.



**"We think its vital for us to save bees (...) we want to do what we can to protect them."**

**"His feelings for nature run deep," explains Melanie. "This year he will become a grandparent for the first time and so he is really focusing on creating a healthy environment for his grandchild. It's very important for us and our farmers to be working in partnership with a brand like Knorr, which reaches a lot of people. We want to offer our customers products that protect our environment through sustainable production. If we all act sustainably, then we can make a difference."**

