

## Case study

### Enhancing bee populations on farms in North & South America

The Townsend Group manage our investments in real assets; investments like property, infrastructure and agriculture. In turn, Townsend select specialist asset managers who select the right investments for us around the world which meet our high environmental criteria.

One such manager is Nuveen, whose farmland investment specialist Westchester focus on investing in sustainable agriculture. Here are some of the things Westchester do while growing crops to help conserve bee populations in different parts of the world.

#### **Maintaining healthy hives for bees and crops**

On a ranch in Chile, during avocado and cherry blooming seasons, beehives are placed in the orchards to help the pollination of these crops. Bees are able to feed in early spring, starting with the cherries in mid- September and continuing with the avocados until November. After blooming periods, beekeepers are provided with access to areas of the ranch, where they can continue to sustain their hives from the native vegetation.



Westchester is increasingly using bees for avocado pollination in Chile, with beekeepers having placed nearly 1,000 hives at Westchester's farms in 2020. The forecast for 1 ranch alone is to support about 185 million bees.

#### **Bee-Friendly Farming & cover cropping**

In California, working with crop managers, teams planted high-nitrogen-generating cover crops on 13 ranches, which comprise more than 1,500 acres. These cover crops help to increase the density, diversity and duration of bee forage, as well as attracting beneficial insects.

This practice also helps to enhance soil health by:

- Increasing organic matter and water availability
- Suppressing weeds and boosting nitrogen levels, and
- Preventing erosion and enhancing water infiltration