Assessment of the Performance of Wonchi Beekeepers’ Association: In case of Wonchi District, South West Shoa Zone, Ethiopia

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Presentation out lines

- Introduction
- Materials and methods
- Results
- Discussions
- Conclusions
- Recommendations
**Introduction**

- Ethiopia is the leading honey producer in Africa and one of the ten top honey producing countries globally with a share of around 23.58 and 2.13% of the total Africa and world honey production, respectively (Ayalew, 1990)

- Large and diverse botanical resources combined with suitable climatic condition make the country favorable for beekeeping (Girma Deffar, 1998)

- Has potential about 500,000 tonnes of honey and 50,000 tonnes of beeswax annually, but currently the production is limited to 43,000 tonnes of honey and 3,000 tonnes of beeswax, less than 10% of its potential ,(MOARD, 2008)
One of the prominent factors for this low honey productivity is the predominance utilization of traditional hives and miss-matched of matched management practices for the type of honey bee races and their environment (Nuru, 2007)

Wonchi District is known in honey production, producing an estimated 62,975 kg annually

Has immense potential for beekeeping in the fact that it retains its natural resources

Honey production is a means of income generating for small scale farmers
Despite its potential role in the development of rural economy, the beekeeping sector faces several problems:

- Lack of beekeeping skills, inappropriate production technologies, weak market access, weak price incentive systems, and limited financial capacity of beekeepers are the major problems which largely reduce the potential contribution of the honey sub-sector (Wilson, 2006: Melaku et al (2008).

- There is a national interest in linking small scale farmers with agricultural marketing chains.
Individual small scale farmers are often reluctant to adopt new production technologies because of the risks and costs involved.

Farmers association offer a means of organizing farmers, bargain power for better farm get prices, of accessing credit, improving access to market, accessing and testing new technologies and reducing risks.

The government and different NGOs therefore promoting producers associations as a strategy of linking small-scale farmers with agribusiness firms.

Wonchi Beekeepers Association was established in 2010 by a group of 40 local beekeepers.

undertakes honey production, bulking, processing, packing, labeling with honey and of recent beeswax sold in both local and international markets such as Italy.
Introduction....

- Despite achievements of the association in solving challenges of local beekeepers, the membership is still low compared to the potentiality of the area.
- Therefore, this study is designed with the objective to assess the performance of Wonchi Beekeepers’ Association in order to recommend to beekeepers’ association to expand its members.
Research questions

1) What is the current potential of honey production in the Wonchi district?

(2) What is the performance of Wonchi beekeepers association in honey value chain?

(3) What are the main functions of Wonchi beekeepers association?

(4) What are the different factors that influence Beekeepers choice on whether or not to be a member of Wonchi beekeepers Association?
Materials and methodology

Study site

- The study was conducted in Wonchi district located 155km South West of Addis Ababa of the capital city of Ethiopia
- The district is situated at:
  - latitude of 8°40’N and 37°55’E
  - an altitudes ranging from 1700 to 3380 m. a. s. l.
Sites and respondents were selected for the survey.

Purposive sampling was employed to select 64 beekeepers: 32 of whom were members of the Association and 32 others whom non-members, three honey value chain supporters, two honey retailers and a total of 69 respondents were selected to collect the required information.
Materials and methodology...

- Individual interviewed were conducted using pre-tested structured questionnaires
- Visual observation supplemented the interviews

Data analysis

- The data were analyzed using the Statistical Packages for Social Science (SPSS) software version 20
- Independent sample t-test and chi-square were also employed with Means were separated using least squares p<0.05
- Value chain mapping was conducted to shows roles of different actors in honey value chain
M&M...

Spider Web Model was that scored different aspect of the association including membership base, products, services, staff capacity, financial management, long term perspective, sales and relationships to provide indication of the areas in which the association was performing well and where the gaps are there
Results and Discussion

Honey value chain in the study area

![Honey value chain diagram]

- **Functions**:
  - Consuming
  - Retailing
  - Exporting
  - Whole saling
  - Processing
  - Collecting
  - Trading
  - producing
  - In put supplying

- **Chain Actors**:
  - Local consumers
  - Urban & city consumers
  - Italian Consumers
  - High & low income consumers
  - Local retailers
  - Urban retailers
  - Wonchi beekeepers association
  - Wonchi beekeepers association
  - Association
  - 40 members of association (3000 kg)
  - Non-members (62,975 kg / 9975 hives)
  - Local honey traders
  - 58.89 ETB
  - 49.4 ETB
  - 45.28 ETB
  - 700 kg
  - 50.83 ETB
  - 45.28 ETB
  - 160 ETB
  - 160 ETB
  - 245 Ethiopian Birr
  - 500 kg

- **Supporters**:
  - District livestock development office
  - Wonchi district cooperative development office
  - Slow Food Foundation

- **Influencer**:
  - Local district government office
  - District livestock development office

- **Values**:
  - 40 members of association (3000 kg)
  - Non-members (62,975 kg / 9975 hives)
  - Training, modern bee hives, accessories & refined beeswax
## Independent sample t-test of members and non-members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Member ± SE (N=32)</th>
<th>Non member ± SE (N=32)</th>
<th>T-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of respondents</td>
<td>47.56 ± 2.861</td>
<td>48.89 ± 4.101</td>
<td>0.791NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family members</td>
<td>7.94 ± 0.693</td>
<td>6.83 ± 0.466</td>
<td>0.192NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of traditional hives owned</td>
<td>9.33±1</td>
<td>7.94±1.181</td>
<td>0.376NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of honey harvesting</td>
<td>1.11±0.076</td>
<td>1.22±0.101</td>
<td>0.386NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average honey production of traditional hive (in Kg)</td>
<td>11.44±1.106</td>
<td>8.22±0.083</td>
<td>0.026**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average honey production of modern hive (in kg)</td>
<td>14.67±2.420</td>
<td>9.24±0.073</td>
<td>0.001**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average of selling price of honey per kg at local market</td>
<td>58.89±1.833</td>
<td>55.28±2.507</td>
<td>0.253NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average of market distance (in km)</td>
<td>9.28±2.969</td>
<td>21.501±3.104</td>
<td>0.007***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average of transportation cost charged (in birr)</td>
<td>19.67±4.528</td>
<td>42.2±27.085</td>
<td>0.011**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average of selling price of honey per kg at farm gate</td>
<td>46.94±2.585</td>
<td>43.67±1.793</td>
<td>0.075NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average of selling price of honey per kg at the association center</td>
<td>50.83±1.774</td>
<td>45.28±1.028</td>
<td>0.010***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average of selling price of honey per kg at nearby town</td>
<td>61.39±1.799</td>
<td>57.22±1.772</td>
<td>0.108NS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** Significant at α=0.01, ** Significant at α= 0.05, *Significant at α=0.1, NS-Non-significant
Factors influencing farmers’ decision on whether or not to become a member of beekeepers association in study area

- Prohibitively high joining fees
- Inability to fulfill the membership criteria
- Lack of information on the existence and benefits of the Beekeepers Association
- Application rejection
- Absence of interest
Figure 1: Factors influencing farmers’ decision on whether or not to become a member of beekeepers association in study area

- Absence of interest: 94.4%
- Absence of benefit: 100%
- Lack of information: 80.6%
- Inability to fulfill criteria: 69.4%
- Application rejection: 86.1%
- High entrance fee: 52.8%
# Results

## Performance Evaluation of Wonchi beekeepers’ association

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Production</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Base</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Product</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Services</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Internal Organization</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Capacity</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Management</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>23.75</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Perspective</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Market</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationships</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>185</td>
<td>99.75</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3: The outcome of the Performance Evaluation based on a Spider Web Model
**Discussions**

- Beekeeping can play a significant role in improving household income and livelihoods of rural community.
- Organizing small scale farmers in the form of producer Associations can improve efficiency of honey production and the marketing system.
- Factors that influencing beekeepers decision not to invest in membership of beekeepers Association include high entrance fee, inability to satisfy criteria of membership, lack of adequate information, rejection of application and absence of interest.
Discussion ....

- The findings are in alignment to a report Woldegerbrial (2010) that identified availability of information technologies, awareness of the rural people on the importance of cooperative and initial entrance fee as factors that highly influenced the decision potential new entrants to join cooperatives in Tigray region of Ethiopia.
Discussion

Bilgic et al. (2006) also found that poor attitude and ambivalence of farmers towards cooperatives role, high communication level with cooperative and higher interaction with personnel or manager of cooperative, membership criteria and entrance fee are highly influence new entrants for being member of cooperative in South Eastern Antolion of Turkey.
Conclusions

- This study clearly indicated that, high entrance fee, lack of adequate information, absence of interest, inability to fulfill membership criteria and application rejection were the most important factors decision on whether or not to become a member of Beekeepers Association.

- Access to modern bee hives with accessories and to technical support training and advice has improved honey yield and quality.

- Transportation cost and long distance negatively affecting non-member Beekeepers compared to member beekeepers because of their product is characterized by low volume, quality, and remoteness area.
Education enables farmers to get awareness, perception about the benefit of association. It is also help farmers to develop positive attitude to wards of the benefit and importance of association.

Even though Wonchi Beekeepers Association play great role in solving the challenges of local beekeepers, the association face major constraints such as: low institutional capacity, inadequate qualified personnel, low entrepreneurship skills, inadequate financial resources, including low capacity of member to mobilize their own resources, inadequate market information, poor members participation in the business activities of the association and poor governance (shareholding, control and support) of the association.
**Recommendations**

- To strengthen its position in honey value chain and increase members’ participation and then ensure sustainable food security through income generation, reduction of entrance fee for the new entrants is required.

- The regional government should expand telecommunication and roads to enhance development in the district.

- Awareness creation intensive training, experience sharing, public meeting and workshop should be organized for the district beekeepers.
Recommendation...

- The association should give member-oriented services to attract, encourage, motivate and satisfy all its members to reflect its commitment to members which is important for the success of the association.
- Accessibility to extension services was found to be weak in the district. There is a strong need for extension services in the district with respect to beekeeping activity.
- The audited result needs to be announced officially to the members of association in order to build trust and transparency between the members and their association
So many thanks!!
References

