HONEY PRODUCTION
Definition

Honey is the natural sweet substance produced by honey bees from the nectar of blossoms or from the secretion of living parts of plants or excretions of plant sucking insects on the living parts of plants, which the honey bees collect, transform and combine with specific enzymes of their own, store and leave in the comb to ripen and mature.

Continues ......
Definition

- Honey is largely composed of sugars that contribute 93% or more of its dry weight. These are largely simple sugars, namely fructose and glucose which comprise 85% or more of the sugars present. These sugars contribute to the physical and nutritional value of honey. Water is the other major component with its concentration being influenced by humidity, nectar and processing. Other contents include minerals like potassium amino acids and vitamins.

- The color of honey varies from clear to colorless to dark amber. There are other color shades such as brighter colors. It tends to turn lighter as it crystallize because the glucose crystals are white. The color influences marketability.
Production of honey

**Introduction**

The bee sucks nectar with its mouth, which is shaped like a tube.

Bees fly hundreds of times between flowers and their honeycombs.

**Making Honey**

In the country, some bees make their nests in places like the trunk of a tree.

Bees make honeycombs with wax from their own bodies. The gaps in the honeycomb are where the honey is stored.

**Beehives**

In gardens or farms, beekeepers keep bees in beehives like this one so they can collect honey. About fifty thousand bees live in one beehive.

**Conclusion**

Honey is used in lots of different recipes. It is delicious when it is spread onto bread.

**The Beekeeper**

The beekeeper collects the honey from the beehive. He takes out the honeycomb which is full of honey.

He is dressed in special clothes so that he doesn't get stung.
Production in Africa

- In 2006 South Africa was the 64th largest honey producer (1,500 tons) a mere 0.11 percent of world production.

- Ethiopia had the largest African honey production in 2006 (41,233 tons) followed by Tanzania (28,678) and Kenya (25,000). South Africa was the 13th largest producer with 1,500 tons.

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Table 11 below shows African honey production for specific years from 1961 to 2006 and ranked according to 2006 production. According to the FAO statistical data used Ethiopia had the largest honey production in 2006 (41,233 tons) followed by Tanzania (28,678) and Kenya (25,000). Angola also produced a significant amount (23,767). South African was the 13th largest producer with 1,500 tons.

The top four African honey producing countries are responsible for 72% of total African honey production. This corresponds to a certain extent with the miombo woodland area of Central and East Africa (where honey producing *Brachystegia* and *Julbernardia* trees are found) (Johannesmeier 2001).
## Production in Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Production 2006</th>
<th>% of World Production in 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>164185</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Africa</td>
<td>100198</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Africa</td>
<td>40737</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Africa</td>
<td>18390</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Africa</td>
<td>3360</td>
<td>0.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>17,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>5,200</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>6,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>16,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>2,140</td>
<td>5,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>9,300</td>
<td>9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>1,850</td>
<td>2,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total African Production</td>
<td>66,972</td>
<td>77,342</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Market for honey

- Honey has different market outlets. The domestic and regional honey markets are currently under-saturated in countries such as Kenya and Uganda, where urban supermarkets, hotels and other retail outlets provide opportunities for honey sales. The advantages of selling locally include:
  - lower marketing and transaction costs, less stringent quality criteria and small volumes are acceptable. The advantages of export include a larger market, potentially high prices (for some honeys) and foreign exchange earnings.
Market for Africa

A study looking at export opportunities for African organic honey (van Loon & Koekoek 2006) found that African honeys differ from European honeys in taste and quality and that currently very little African honey is exported to Europe. The study concluded that there is a market for African organic honeys in Europe (domestic European production currently only meets approximately 40% of European demand).

The European organic honey market makes up approximately 1% of the total honey market. This was partly due to the fact that honey is a natural product and the difference between conventional and organic honey is relatively small.

In conclusion the study highlights single origin, organic and fair trade niches as the most attractive segments for African honeys while pointing out that a strategy that targets the high-end of the market would require consistent quality and a regular, reliable supply.
Why are we importing Honey

Honey has been imported to different parts of the world because:

- low production
- poor processing facilities
- lack of knowledge of market requirements
- lack of organizational structure
- lack of policy and standards
- lack of communication among member states
How can associations and extension workers enhance production?

- Standards and policy framework
- Research and development
- Information sharing
- Regional multi-stakeholder platforms
- Training – regional and local
- Continuous monitoring of projects
Honey production in pictures
Continues ......
Continues.......
References


2. CBI 2006 The EU Market in honey and beeswax. The Netherlands

3. Johannes Agonafir 2005 Strategic intervention plan on honey and beeswax value chains. Ethiopia SNV/Boam

4. Uganda Export Promotion Board, 2004 Export strategy
thank you