Rwanda land of thousands hills and paradise of bees
BEEKEEPING COUNTRY SITUATION PAPER

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Rwanda’s four National Parks are its most famous attractions selected as beekeeping potential areas. The protection and conservation of these parks is a vital priority for the beekeeping sector development.
OUTLINE

- Beekeeping facts History
- History
- Market access
- Beekeeping policies and regulations
- Beekeeping trends
- Achievements
- Activities maintaining high quality Rwandan Honey
- Results
- Challenges
- Way forward
BEEKEEPING FACTS

- Total no. of beekeepers: 83,000 (only 45% are active)
- Total national production (Tons): 4,500
- Total national demand of honey: 16,800
- Total no. of HCC: 52
- Total no. of Honey processors companies: 15
- Exporters: 2 private businesses
- Farm gate price: 2.8 USD/Kg
- Selling Price: 5.7 USD/Kg (Supermarkets)
- Annual Honey Yield per HH/LHV: 35-45 kgs
- Average annual income from honey per HH: from 114 2012 to 250 USD (2014 data report):
HISTORY

• Beekeeping started in Rwanda between 1510 -1545;

• Beekeeping has been practiced for many years by men. A 2009 survey found 74 %, men, 14% women and 12 % youth but nowadays youth and women play a big role in this sector;

• Modern beehives started to be used from 1956,

• Rwanda has forests and other natural resources favorable for bee farming leading to good quality honey contributing to income generation for farmers and economy of the country.

• Rwanda’s honey is locally and regionally sold in the neighboring countries and since 2014 to EU countries.
Honey market access


This results in increased volumes of trade in agricultural products.

Rwanda therefore ensures that SPS standards and requirements are met for continued access to these markets.
Honey market access

Rwanda started exporting honey to the European Union.

This was after undergoing a rigorous process of testing Rwandan honey by an EU accredited lab and developing Honey Residue Monitoring Plan (HRMP).

Tests included analysis of residues for pesticides, antibiotics and heavy metals in the honey samples submitted and the results corresponded to the EU regulations. (More incomes)

Impact

Improved livelihoods

Honey
BEEKEEPING POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

- Overall Agriculture Policy
- Law No 25/2013 of 10/05/2013 detailing organization and functioning of Beekeeping in Rwanda.
- Law No 30/2012 of 01/08/2012 governing of agrochemicals,
- National beekeeping strategy 2013-2018
- Ministerial orders regulating the beekeeping in Rwanda
- Rwanda Beekeeping standards
- Code of Hygienic Practices, general principles of Food Hygiene 2003
- Code of practice for apiary management, handling and processing of bee-products, RS 153:2012)
- Law on food and pharmaceutical regulations
- Law governing the use of agrochemicals
BEEKEEPING TRENDS IN RWANDA

- Sector with high potential
- Total national production is lower than the demand.
- Political will to support the beekeeping sector
- A big informal sector
- Much more high value bee products for export in the future
- Beekeeping policy focusing on strengthening farmer’s cooperatives and private sector involvement
- More focus on honey production and wax
- Practice of beekeeping on small scale (5-10 LBH)
- Around protected areas or and close to homesteads (especially for women)
- Trees planting / reforestation among the economic policies
Political will to support the beekeeping sector
Honey for local market

Bee products become more and more diversified due to private sector engagement attractive domestic markets

Candles and Handcraft

Soap

Wine from honey

Wax sheets
CURRENT HONEY VC STRUCTURE

- Input supplying
  - Carpenters, Private Companies: ABDC, ABC, cooperatives, individual beekeepers trained to produce
  - REMA, RAB, MINAGRI, ONGs (ARDI, SNV, etc.)
    - Non-financier services
      - Extension
      - Market and business linkages
      - Advocacy
    - FIs (Banques, Micro finances,...)
      - Financial services (loans): BPR, Duterimbere, Amasezerano, Umutanguha, Vision Finance etc

- Production Transformation

- Transformation Packing
  - Trading Companies and strong cooperatives

- Trading
  - Local: super market kiosque, boutique, and hotels
    - Quality Insurance (RBS, ISO, etc.)
    - FI’s (credits, deposits, savings)

- End users
  - Households and Public Institutions (HH)

- Chain Facilitators
Business opportunities

Issues
- Few inputs suppliers
- Most of inputs and equipment imported and expensive (high costs)
- Low quality of local products
- Weak & inconsistent supply chain
- Low Quality of honey
- Inconsistent supply

Production
- Inadequate Infrastructure
- High transportation costs,
- Honey plants utilized under their capacity
- Inconsistent quality and packaging of honey products
- High costs not certified and unbranded.

Collection
- Inconsistent quality and packaging of honey products

Processing
- Focus on domestic market and honey marketing

Value
- Low awareness of consumers on honey positive attributes

Addition & Packaging
- Explore specific niche markets

Retail & Consumption
- Focus on domestic market and honey marketing

Export
- Export market not yet explored

Area of investment
- Production of high and affordable inputs for farmers
- Commercial beekeeping' training, monitoring & quality control
- Construction of HCC, Storage equipment facilities

Possible Partners
- RDB
- WDA
- RAB
- RSB
- Financial Services (Banks)
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Sector policies put in place
- Development of beekeeping curricula
- Training of Master Beekeepers as nucleus of beekeeping in the communities
- Construction of Honey collection Centers in compliance with standards
- Reinforcement of PPP through MSPs/apibusiness clusters
- and Training of youth, women as well
Queen rearing techniques adopted by farmers

Bee diseases control
Farmers attending a field visit at the apiary of HIVE Ltd Group
ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE HIGH QUALITY RWANDAN HONEY

- Presence of a Honey working group with objective of upgrading the quality of honey.
- The Rwanda Standards Board has developed Honey Standards and has a Quality Testing Lab.
- Training of honey producers on producing quality Honey
- Farmers trained on management, harvest and packaging which have improved honey quality (GHP).
RESULTS

• Increased n°. of more commercial beekeeping groups / cooperatives
• More women engaged in beekeeping
• More private businesses linking with farmers
• Increased no. of BDS providers to beekeepers cooperatives
• Improved productivity High quality and certified honey with different brands
• Increased awareness of MFIs/SACCOs
**CHALLENGES**

- Low production of honey compared to the demand
- Limited diversification of bee products (only honey and wax)
  - Limited research on bees species and diseases
  - Limited access to financial services for beekeepers cooperatives (collateral issues)
- Lack of reliable data and uncoordinated market information system
- Limited number of high quality equipment suppliers and packaging material
WAY FORWARD

- More extension to beekeepers
- More research on bee diseases
- Maintain good practices
- Invest in good quality of equipment
Asante

Merci

Murakoze

Asante

Merci