

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate release

AU-IBAR to launch inaugural report on Africa's apiculture industry at the 46th APIMONDIA Congress

8th September 2019, Montreal, Canada – The African Union's Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is set to launch its first report on the performance of the beekeeping (apiculture) industry in Africa. This will be during the Africa Round Table scheduled for 12th September 2019 at the 46th APIMONDIA International Apicultural Congress in Montreal, Canada.

The Congress runs from 8th-12th September 2019.

The report, titled *Inaugural Status of Apiculture in Africa: Status, Opportunities and Strategies for Development of the Apiculture Industry in Africa 2018*, provides an analytical outlook of the sector in Africa. Three other critical reports will be launched alongside it: *National Profiles of Apiculture of 51 Member States*; *National Reports on Apiculture from 25 Member States*; and *Profiles of the African Apiculture Platform (ApiTrade Africa) and 25 National Apiculture Platforms*.

The documents detail development objectives, policy and regulatory frameworks, production systems and honeybee genetic resources and distribution. They further highlight pollination services, bee health, honey production and trade, organisation of actors, industry opportunities and threats, as well as priorities and investment prospects.

Importantly, they provide critical information where public sector and strategic partner interventions will be necessary to ensure bee health, promote conservation of Africa's honey bee genetic resources and populations, and to develop pollination services critical to achieving food and nutrition objectives of the Malabo Declaration, the SDG's and African Union Agenda 2063.

While apiculture can play a critical role in reducing poverty and improving food security, Africa's honey and beeswax production is estimated to be less than 10 percent and 25 percent of the world output respectively. This unfavourable situation is attributable to the fragmented nature of the beekeeping sector in the continent.

The *Inaugural Status of Apiculture in Africa* states that the sector is characterised by low productivity, poor quality, inadequate technical personnel, insufficient research, low adoption of improved technologies and ineffective control of pests and diseases, among other shortcomings.

Though various efforts have been made to increase the productivity of honey and hive products in Africa, the development of regulatory frameworks and requisite institutional infrastructure for promoting beekeeping as an economic activity remains wanting. The report suggests

collaborative efforts across borders and continents for effective promotion and development of apiculture in Africa into productive commercial enterprises.

Therefore, AU-IBAR, with support of the European Union, is working with stakeholders in Member States and other continents to change the narrative. The unveiling of the reports detailing the status of apiculture in Africa at this year's APIMONDIA is part of the journey towards improving the industry.

Over 100 participants comprising representatives from governments and the private sector, as well as beekeepers, traders and several sector actors, will gather at the Palais des Congrès de Montréal for the 12th September Africa Round Table to learn, exchange knowledge and expand networks for greater market access for bee products.

Additionally, a range of products and services of the apiculture sector will be showcased at the African Pavilion to demonstrate the business opportunities in different African countries, thanks to the great work of the private sector-led membership organisation – ApiTrade Africa – which has spearheaded this concept since the 43rd edition of APIMONDIA Congress held in Ukraine in 2013.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

About AU-IBAR

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is a specialised technical office of the African Union. It was established in 1951 and was initially known as the Inter-African Bureau of Epizootic Diseases. At inception, it was mainly concerned with rinderpest control, but its mandate was expanded to other major animal diseases in 1956 and finally to all aspects of animal resource development in 1970. The current AU-IBAR strategic programme running from 2018 to 2023 is focused on animal health and production as well as trade and markets. Read more: <http://ww.au-ibar.org>

About APIMONDIA

APIMONDIA is the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations. Its major objective is to facilitate the exchange of information and discussions on apiculture by organising congresses and symposia where beekeepers, scientists, honey-traders, development agents, technicians and legislators meet to listen, discuss and learn from one another. Participants get the opportunity to learn about cutting-edge research and to meet beekeepers and scientists from different parts of the world. Read more: <https://www.apimondia2019.com/>

For more information, please contact:

Prof. Ahmed A. El-Sawalhy, Director/Head of Mission,
AU-IBAR; Email: ahmed.elsawalhy@au-ibar.org

Dr. Baboucarr Jaw, Chief Animal Health Officer,
AU-IBAR; Email: baboucarr.jaw@au-ibar.org