

**MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AND OFFICIAL
LAUNCH OF THE EU FUNDED BEE HEALTH PROJECT HELD ON 23rd TO 25th
SEPTEMBER, 2013 AT THE THOMAS ODHIAMBO CONFERENCE HALL, *icipe*,
DUDUVILLE, NAIROBI, KENYA**

The inaugural Steering Committee Meeting and official launch of the EU funded Bee Health Project was called to order at 0920hrs by Mr. Willis Awori, Human Resources Manager, *icipe*. The meeting was attended by members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Observers, and other relevant country representatives (See Annex 1 for the list of Participants).

1] Welcome and Opening Addresses

- Prof. Christian Borgemeister, Director General, *icipe*, welcomed the delegates to the meeting. He highlighted that this was an achievement and significant milestone for the two partnering Centres, i.e. *icipe* and AU-IBAR, as concerns collaborative undertakings in Africa to address shared threats. He recognized Prof. Suresh Raina and Dr. Baldwin Torto for their efforts in the Bee Health Project, and further stated that *icipe* was inaugurating the first ever attempt to safeguard honeybee health. He mentioned that there is ample evidence to show that the indiscriminate use of pesticides has had a negative impact on beekeeping and may have created the Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) first reported in USA. This threat can be addressed effectively by controlling pests and diseases through a suitable management strategy. He stated that the bee health project would address such issues that are causing concern on the African continent. He welcomed fruitful deliberations at the meeting, and wished the project the success it deserves.
- In his remarks EU's Steven Wathome, Programme Manager, Agriculture and Rural Development, highlighted that the EU supports research related activities, and as such it supports the Bee Health Project being implemented by *icipe* and AU-IBAR. He further highlighted that through the bee health project there would be closer networking between bee health experts and policy makers whose knowledge and skills would contribute in developing a standard strategy to safeguard bee health and the resultant pollination services in Africa. He also hoped that through the Bee Health project, people would be enlightened on the role of insects in biodiversity.
- Dr. Bruce Mukanda, AU-IBAR, represented H.E Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission and Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director AU-IBAR.

In a speech read on behalf H.E Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, he highlighted the importance of honeybees and their contribution to global food security and, therefore, human livelihood and existence. He noted that the reference laboratory and satellite stations should strengthen diseases and pests' surveillance in African countries and help develop strategies to commercialize the honeybees sector by improving local breeds with the guidance of *icipe*. These efforts, coupled with marketplace development and introduction of modern methods of honey harvesting, processing and packaging, would improve African trade, reduce forest destruction, benefit local economies and conserve the pollinator biodiversity. He thanked the EU for choosing *icipe* and AU-IBAR to lead this important Bee Health Project.

2] Presentation of Terms of Reference (TOR)

Simplice Nouala, AU-IBAR chaired this session on behalf of the Steering Committee Chair (the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission). The TOR document was presented by Suresh Raina, the Bee Health Project Team Leader.

i] Steering Committee (SC)

a) The TOR of the SC were presented and the main contents are:

- Background of the African Bee Health Project;
- Mandate and functions of the Steering Committee;
- Responsibilities of the SC Chair;
- Responsibilities of the SC members;
- General information, i.e. membership, quorum and decision making; frequency of meetings; agenda, minutes and decision papers, and proxies.

b) The TOR for SC was validated and adopted with minor amendments.

[Action point: icipe secretariat to effect the changes].

c) These are:

- The association under which Apisavana Honey of Burkina Faso is registered should be a member of the SC;
- All acronyms should be in one language i.e. English or French;
- The minimum number required for decision making should be 8;
- All subsequent meetings to be conducted in both English and French;
- The information package should be sent to all members 10 days prior to the next meeting.

ii] Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

a) TOR for the TAC were presented and the main highlights are:

- TAC representation;
- Mandate and functions of TAC;
- Membership criteria.

b) The TOR for TAC was validated and adopted.

c) It was agreed that:

- There was need to identify an African Bee Health expert, for possible inclusion in the TAC.
[Action point: icipe and AU-IBAR to address the issue].

iii] Observers of the Bee Health Project

a) The role of Observers in the Bee Health Project and their representation were presented.

b) It was agreed that there could be inclusion of more Observers depending on the nature of the meeting.

3] Technical Presentations

Technical presentations by members of the TAC were made on surveillance and monitoring of honeybee diseases and pests.

4] Laboratory Visits

Members visited the following sites to familiarize themselves with research and activities related to Bee Health:

- Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory (EID)
- Commercial Insects and Bioprospecting Programmes Laboratories
- Behavioural and Chemical Ecology Department (BCED)
- Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics Unit (MBBU)
- Bee Health Reference Laboratory Construction site

5] Bee Health Project Inception Phase Progress Report

Participating country representatives from Liberia, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Madagascar and Kenya, made presentations on baseline information for satellite stations and beekeeping regions.

6] Steering Committee Meeting

Simplice Nouala of AU-IBAR chaired the session which was attended by Project Steering Committee (PSC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Observers. The Acting Chair welcomed members to the 1st Steering Committee Meeting of the EU funded Bee Health Project.

i) Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda of the meeting was presented to members for endorsement; and it was adopted.

ii) 1st Year Project Budget

- a) The Project's Accounting Manager at *icipe* presented the 1st year project budget.
- b) It was agreed that:
 - There was need to strengthen the laboratories in the participating countries.
[Action point: icipe will address the issue when the need arises]
 - The country budgets will come to effect upon signing of the Agreement.
- c) Year 1 Project budget was endorsed.

iii) Draft Project Agreement

- a) The Bee Health Team Leader presented the draft project agreement document.
- b) The draft project agreement document was endorsed with proposed amendments.
[Action point: icipe secretariat to incorporate proposed amendments].
- c) It was agreed that:

- The project agreement document will be translated to French before circulation to member states.
[Action point: icipe secretariat to address translation issue].
- The amended project agreement document will be sent to participating member states to enable the respective legal officers to review the document
[Action point: icipe secretariat to facilitate the activity].

iv) Way Forward

- Minutes of the meeting will be circulated to members by **Friday, 4th October 2013**.
- The next PSC meeting will be virtual and will be held on **25th March 2014**. For this, members were requested to activate Skype addresses before this date and send the details to the *icipe* secretariat;
- The TAC should meet before the 25th March 2014 to advise the PSC appropriately.

The Chair thanked the delegates for their constructive contributions to the meeting and thanked the host for the excellent organization and preparation of the meeting.

7] Closing Remarks

Dr. Bruce Mukanda of AU-IBAR gave the closing remarks on behalf of the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission and the Director of AU-IBAR. He noted that the two days of deliberations on bee health issues had been instrumental for the project, with day one addressing technical issues and outlining strategies to be put in place to accomplish the objectives of the project. He further noted that day 2 addressed administrative issues and instruments, and laid out strategies on how to proceed with the activities.

He emphasized that as partners at different levels (Technical, Stakeholders and Financial), it is important to coordinate and communicate effectively with each other to ensure smooth implementation of the project and hence timely accomplishment of the project goals. Thus all partners should ensure they undertake their roles effectively.

On behalf of the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, and the Director of AU-IBAR, he declared the meeting officially closed.

Signed:

H.E Rhoda Peace Tumusiime
Chair Steering Committee
African Union Commission

Signed:

Suresh Raina
Secretariat and Team Leader
Bee Health Project, *icipe*/ AU-IBAR

Annex I: List of Participants
23rd September 2013, *icipe*, Duduville, Nairobi, Kenya

S. No	Name	Institution
Steering Committee		
1.	Dr. Moussa Bashirou Demsa	Representative, CEEAC
2.	Dr. Abdirahman Isaac	Representative, IGAD
3.	Dr. Some M. Jocelyne Rolande	Ministry representative, Burkina Faso
4.	Dr. Daalome Théophile	Ministry representative, Cameroon
5.	Mrs. Seklau E. Wiles	Ministry representative, Liberia
6.	Mr. Stephen Muchiri	Representative, EAFF
7.	Mr. Desire- Marie Yameogo	Private Sector representative, Burkina Faso
8.	Dr. Yoseph Shiferaw Mamo	Representative, COMESA
9.	Prof. Suresh Kumar Raina	Secretariat, <i>icipe</i>
Technical Advisory Committee		
10.	Prof. Dr. Robin F.A. Moritz	Martin-Luther-Universitat, Halle, German
11.	Prof. Ingemar Fries	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala Sweden
12.	Dr. Heli Havukainen	Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway
13.	Dr. Shi Wei	Bee Institute of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
14.	Dr. Francois van Langevelde	Wageningen University, Netherlands
15.	Dr. Patrick Bastiaesen	OIE, Kenya
Observers		
16.	Mr. Steve Wathome	EU, Kenya
17.	Dr. D. K. Mbugua	Kenya Forest Service
18.	Dr. Sylvester Malei Kyengo	Private Sector, Kenya
19.	Dr. Annie F. Rakotondramanana	MINEL, Madagascar
20.	Dr. Amssalu Bezabeh	Holeta Bee Research Center, Ethiopia
21.	Dr. Grace Asiko	Ministry of Livestock Development, Kenya
Participants		
22.	Prof. Christian Borgemeister	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
23.	Dr. Segenet Kelemu	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
24.	Dr. Baldwyn Torto	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
25.	Dr. Everlyn Nguku	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
26.	Dr. Bruce Mukanda	AU-IBAR, Kenya
27.	Dr. Simplicie Nouala	AU-IBAR, Kenya
28.	Mr. Aliye Hussen	Oromia Agricultural Research Institute, Ethiopia
29.	Dr. Shifa, Ballo	<i>icipe</i> , Ethiopia
30.	Mr. Lulseged Belayhun	<i>icipe</i> , Ethiopia
31.	Dr. Lassina Ouattara	Burkina Faso
32.	Mrs. Florence Annie Youbissi	Cameroon
33.	Mr. Joseph R. N. Anderson	Liberia
34.	Dr. Jean Joseph Randriamananoro	Madagascar
35.	Ms. Mercy Kiyapyap	Cabesi Self Help Group, Kenya
36.	Mr. Paul Losute	Cabesi Self Help Group, Kenya
37.	Ms. Everlyn Khamala	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
38.	Mr. Patrick Ndiangui	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya

39.	Mr. Willis Awori	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
40	Dr .Subramanian Sergam	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
41	Mr. David Mwenda	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
42	Dr. Daisy Salifu	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
43	Ms. Rose Muthoni	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
44	Ms. Phyllis Mwanzi	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
45	Ms. Gladys Mose	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
46	Dr. Lwande Wilber	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
47	Ms. Fiona Mumoki	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
48	Dr. Fiaboe Komi	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
49	Ms. Beatrice Nguguna	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
50	Ms. Isabella Nyamoita	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
51	Mr. James Nganga	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
52	Ms. Loise Kawira	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
53	Dr. Boniface Ngoka	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
54	Ms. Annah Njui	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
55	Ms. Susan Kariuki	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
56	Mr. David Cham	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
57	Dr. Daniel Masiga	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
58	Dr. Tobias landmann	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
59	Dr. Janet Irungu	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
60	Dr. Juliette Ongus	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
61	Ms. Ada Mildred Achieng	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
62	Mr. Sospeter Makau	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
63	Mr. Joseph Kilonzo	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
64	Mr. Brian Mwashu	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya
65	Ms. Selina Njeri	<i>icipe</i> , Kenya