

Professional Beekeeping



- Colonies of bees are moved to exploit multiple forage resources, which increases production



Professional Beekeeping

- Colonies may be used for commercial pollination which is now the majority income of most professional beekeepers



Professional Beekeeping

- Less absconding and starving colonies because they are fed when they need to be



Professional Beekeeping

- Better quality honey

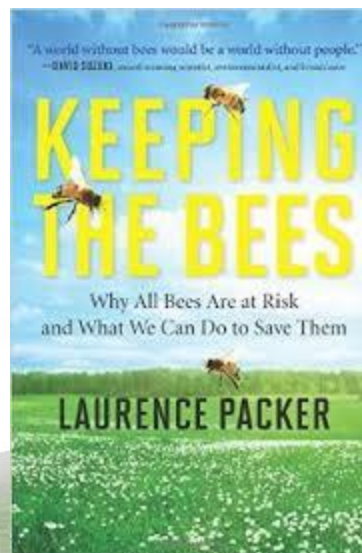
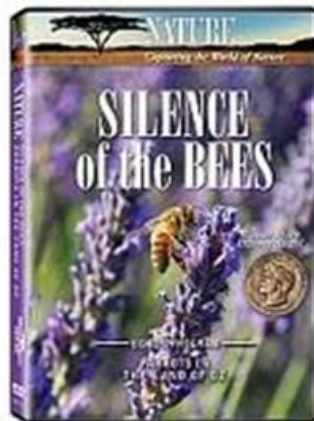


But there are costs

- Epidemic disease levels
- Requiring regular medication
- Increasing pollination and pollutant stresses
- Increasing losses of colonies



And concern about a global bee crisis



Should we promote professional beekeeping in Africa?

- A cautious 'Yes'
- Yes – because movable frames & movable colonies & extracted honey & better quality honey are necessary to generate profitable and sustainable beekeeper industries
- Yes – because the new pests and diseases in Africa will need management to deal with them
- Yes – because countries will need commercial pollination to grow their agriculture
- Yes – because beekeepers have to provide that pollination service
- Yes – because the best way to develop small-scale beekeeping is to develop professional beekeeping

But should learn from the current problems

- Keep the beekeeping as natural and extensive as possible
- Should feed bees only when absolutely necessary
- Should stay away from medication if at all possible
- Should keep apiaries small (pick-up size) and not dump colonies together
- Should make sure all colonies have extensive resting and natural phases, away from honey production and commercial pollination
- Should maintain the pure & organic advantage that African beekeepers presently have

A challenge and an opportunity for Africa

- To grow beekeeping in Africa by making it more modern and more professional
- Whilst retaining the advantages of traditional African beekeeping

