

What to do to boost honey production in Southern Africa



A situational analysis of the region conducted showed that

- ▶ Following a market study of the honey industry in Southern Africa (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia, Lesotho, Mozambique), it was established that (a) the region has vast potential for honey production which currently is under-exploited, (b) all the countries in the region (except Zambia) are net honey importers, (c) despite the potential most of the honey is exported from outside Africa with South Africa importing and exporting to the other countries in the region, (d) the organization of beekeepers is weak and has to be strengthened.

Zimbabwe

- ❖ **In Zimbabwe, beekeeping is fast becoming a profitable income generating activity for people of all ages because of the high demand for honey and related bee products on the market. There is currently a high shortage of honey and bee related products such as beeswax in the market in Zimbabwe.**

- ❖ **Continues**

Zimbabwe

- ❖ **In Zimbabwe prices of honey are not controlled by government hence the prices depend on the beekeeper's ability to bargain but net returns can be as high as 45%, beekeeping is a profitable venture because of the abundance of wild colonies and lengthy season that is ideal for honey production. However, many beekeepers have not yet taken beekeeping seriously as a source of their livelihood.**

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What to do to boost Zimbabwe honey production

- ❖ **Adopting to new advanced technology and ways of beekeeping not continuously using the traditional beehives made of logs and barks**
- ❖ **Encourage serious honey keeping so that there will be enough production for local and exports**
- ❖ **Finding ways of getting market feedback to find ways to improve on the quality of their honey**

Malawi

- ❖ **Since Malawi's economy is dependent on agriculture it follows that the role played by bees in pollinating crops is very crucial. In addition the majority of people involved in agricultural production in Malawi are poor and live in the rural areas where large tracts of forests are found.**
- ❖ **Government of Malawi has adopted poverty reduction as one of its development strategy, and apiculture is one of the industries that are being promoted in the rural areas to improve off farm incomes and employment. The apiculture industry provides the much needed diversification in the agricultural production base.**

What to do to boost Malawi honey production

- ❖ **Since honey is mainly produced by small scale households, big companies should look into honey production and maximize production to sustain local consumption as well as for exports.**
- ❖ **Adopt to new ways and technology for bee keeping which are eco friendly that will allow them to reduce deforestation because of their traditional bark made beehives.**

Botswana

❖ **Through the FAP scheme, hundreds of farmers received grants to start beekeeping projects. At the start of FAP, there were only 12 beekeeping projects nationwide. Today there are approximately 500 bee farmers in the country. The Government of Botswana on realizing the potential that beekeeping has, has recently commissioned a feasibility study whose aim is to develop a commercialization strategy for the beekeeping industry in Botswana.**

What to do to boost Botswana honey production

- ❖ **The beekeepers should be equipped with bee management skills so that they can be able to perform all the management activities themselves.**
- ❖ **Improved extension programme or organization of co-operatives and training in the use of modern hives and hiving techniques are also required.**
- ❖ **There is need to increase the number of beekeeping personnel in the region as the number of colonies is high.**
- ❖ **Proper management practices need to be enhanced and intensified to facilitate production increase per unit; otherwise the viability and potentiality of beekeeping will continue to be a long and endless dream.**

What to do to boost Mozambique honey production

- ❖ **The beekeepers should be equipped with bee management skills so that they can be able to perform all the management activities themselves.**
- ❖ **Improved extension programme or organization of co-operatives and training in the use of modern hives and hiving techniques are also required because most beekeepers are still using traditional ways of beekeeping.**
- ❖ **Need ways to commercialize honey rather than just selling to individuals. They need to come up with ways to produce more honey and work on the quality and packaging.**
- ❖ **Proper management practices need to be enhanced and intensified to facilitate production increase per unit; otherwise the viability and potentiality of beekeeping will continue to be a long and endless dream.**

Mozambique

- ❖ **The central and south part of Mozambique is one of huge potential area for honey and wax production. The climate can generally be described as good and conducive to beekeeping. The major vegetation types are savannah scattered with trees or bushes, savannah woodland and forest, all of which are capable of supporting large bee populations.**

Conclusion

- ▶ **From the above reports it is paramount that beekeeping associations and extension workers ensure that the beekeeping projects are;-**
 - ❖ **Using correct apiary management methods**
 - ❖ **Correct siting of apiaries**
 - ❖ **Continued practice-based training**
 - ❖ **Monitoring and valuation**
 - ❖ **Seek support regional**
 - ❖ **Coordination at various levels of the sector**

The end

