

Training on Beekeeping

Population growth, increasing pressure on land, land degradation, slash and burning... many agricultural problems directly affect bees. If there are no bees around, food crops are not pollinated. This directly effects food availability and thus livelihoods of people in developing countries. Local beekeepers often kill bees with smoke to harvest honey. Afterwards, they boil the combs to separate honey and wax. Boiling completely spoils the quality of the honey. Moreover, beekeepers throw away the wax because they don't know what to do with it.

Focus on sustainable beekeeping In many cases, smallholder beekeepers have not enough knowledge about the functionality of bees. Moreover, they lack income to buy protective clothing and equipments. Training and capacity building sessions allow beekeepers to radically improve their beekeeping practices. Thanks to value adding and marketing activities, they are able to raise the family income. Besides this, sustainable beekeeping practices lead to more food safety and more biodiversity.

Capacity building sessions and trainings Agro Eco-Louis Bolk Institute provides training and capacity building sessions on:

Beekeeping

- Life in the beehive
- Bees in nature
- Apiary management
- Type of beehives
- Beekeeping equipment



Value addition

- Characteristics and medicinal use of honey, pollen, propolis, wax and royal jelly
- Processing and packaging of honey, candles and soap

Value chain support

- Operation of a honey and beeswax processing plant
- Compliance for Organic, HCCP or ISO certification
- Pre- and post-harvest handling
- National and international marketing



Participative approach Thanks to our participatory approach, beekeepers learn from each other and include their own experiences into the course. Practical experience on site is included. The knowledge exchange, as well as the focus on marketing produce are highly appreciated by participants. Trainings are tailor made depending on the background of the target group, the context of the project and the time available.



Kabala, Sierra Leone Beekeepers clinic

The 4-day clinic was organized by Care Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Agriculture. The Howard Buffet Foundation financed this training of the trainers. The objective of the clinic was to train extension officers and key staff as well as key beekeepers, on good beekeeping practices.

The clinic was based on strong interactions between trainers and participants. It allowed a two-ways knowledge transfer. In fact, traditional practices were analyzed and improved with sustainable practical skills for harvesting and bee product processing.

The training resulted in a group of farmers, trainers and technical staff of Care and the Ministry of Agriculture who now know all about the live of bees and the importance of bees for nature. They have the skills to harvest honey without destroying the bee colony. They know how to separate honey from wax and harvest high quality raw honey and to produce beeswax candles, honey soap and lip balm. During the wrap-up of the training, the participants made an overview of the do's and don'ts of a beekeeper. They are also able to train other farmers to become a beekeeper in stead of being a bee killer.

Do you want to know more about our services? Please contact

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