



APIMONDIA SYMPOSIUM 2018

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

(Nov. 30 - Dec. 04, 2018)

'The Role of Bees in Food Production'



Ethiopia
LAND OF ORIGINS

BEE AT YOUR ORIGIN

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THE HOST COUNTRY: ETHIOPIA

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is situated in the horn of Africa, at 3°-15° N latitude and 33°- 48° E longitude with a population size of about 100 million. The country is at a strategic position to enhance international trade and investment. It is a country of great biological and ecological diversity. Besides, Ethiopia is the origin of humankind and *Coffea arabica*. It has also been referred to as 'the land of thousand smiles'...and the capital city of Africa. Ethiopia owes its rich biodiversity to the combination of a tropical location and an altitudinal span ranging from 4,533 metres above sea level to 116 metres below sea level. The country is known for its unusually high level of endemism i.e. plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world. Among vertebrates alone, at least 140 species are unique to Ethiopia, including more than 40 mammals and 18 birds



Ethiopia's geographical position

APICULTURE SUBSECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN ETHIOPIA

THE POTENTIAL

Ethiopia has a huge, and largely untapped potential in the apiculture sector. The country is endowed with over 10 million bee colonies and about 2 million smallholder beekeepers. The complete flora of Ethiopia has between six and seven thousand species of flowering plants many of which are of importance to honey bees. Many shrubs and herbs often considered as "weeds" are very valuable for honey bees, and in many other ways. The honey and beeswax annual production potential is estimated at 500,000 and 50,000 tons, respectively. Currently, the country produces only 64,000 tons of honey and 6,000 tons of beeswax that account for more than 25% of production in Africa, making it one of the top ten honey and five beeswax producers in the globe.

THE DEVELOPMENT ROLE OF APICULTURE

The Apiculture sub sector has remarkable potential to contribute to employment generation, livelihood improvement, and biodiversity conservation and helps ensuring economic advantages of women, youths &

poor households. Development of the Beekeeping practices could significantly enhance crop production, food security, maintenance of plant diversity and ecosystem stability. Bees are important for the environment, as they provide pollination to both cultivated and natural plants. Thus, investment in the apiculture sector means diversifying income source, enhancing agricultural yield of smallholder farmers, and creating employment opportunities for the youth, women and conserving biodiversity, mitigating climate change and improves exchange of foreign currencies. Overall, investing in the apiculture sector is meant strengthening sustainable socioeconomic development of the society.



Traditional bee hives in the forest

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION EFFORTS

The Ethiopian Government, private sector actors and development partners recognized the potential of the apiculture sector in the country and started investing in the sector. Three sector associations – the **Ethiopian Society of Apiculture Science (ESAS)**, the **Ethiopian Honey and Beeswax Producers and Exporters Association (EHBPEA)** - and the **Ethiopian Apiculture Board (EAB)** have been coordinating and supporting sectoral development efforts.



An apiary with wooden top bar hives

These include strengthening extension services, research activities, training of smallholder beekeepers and organizing them in producers' cooperatives and unions, improving the quality and supply chain of inputs, producing standards and means for conformation for hive products and inputs, and coordination of efforts to meet requirements for the "Third Country Listing" to export to EU markets. Ethiopia has been listed (and has exported honey to the EU) without interruption since 2008.

The Ethiopian Apiculture Board (EAB) has got a proven track record of successfully organizing multi-stakeholder platforms, publishing the Api - Business Directory of Ethiopia and the quarterly newsletter API NEWS, organizing the Api-Ethiopia Expo and the Api-Expo Africa in collaboration with other stakeholders, networking the Ethiopian beekeeping sector with sub regional, regional and global sector institutions to facilitate learning, experience sharing and market linkages.

Therefore, the EAB and other key stakeholders in the beekeeping sector in Ethiopia, have reliable experience and capacity to effectively handle any continental or global event to the satisfaction of all actors in the sector. We are pleased to invite interested scientific community, academicians and professionals around the globe to this international APIMONDIA symposium 2018 to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

EXISTING SECTORAL CHALLENGES

Despite all the potentials the subsector can offer, the apiculture in Ethiopia has suffered from under estimation of its potential and its role for socioeconomic development. The country's potential for honey and beeswax production is expected to be 500,000 and 50,000 tons per year for honey and beeswax respectively, but only approximately about 10% of the honey and wax potential have been tapped, and the commercialization of other high value bee products such as pollen, propolis and bee venom is not yet practiced at a marketable volume, even not yet recognized.



APIS Plc. Demonstration Site at Ale Woreda, Ilubabor

Inadequate attention to apiculture by the smallholder households, DAs; extension service, limited technical skills of the smallholder farmers in production and management; limited knowledge about the role apiculture plays in generating income and employment, the role it plays in food production via its pollination effect and environment conservation; lack and/or limited quality of beekeeping inputs; as well as limited integration between beekeepers and processors are among the critical apiculture development bottlenecks in the apiculture value chain in the country.

PROSPECTS

The government has launched extension service for the smallholder beekeepers since late 1960's though the action may not have been sufficiently aggressive and desired changes have so far not been obtained as intended. Now the government has a high level of interest to improve and use the beekeeping sector to unleash its potential for employment generation, poverty alleviation and export commodity diversification.



Api-Expo Africa 2012 in Addis Ababa, opening ceremony

Since its establishment, the Ethiopian Apiculture Board (EAB) has been working in promoting and marketing the sector, coordination and facilitation of regional and national MSPs to improve production and productivity, facilitation of market linkages, establishment of quality infrastructure, input production and supply chain, as well as networking among the sector actors. Following the ApiExpo Africa 2012 organized by the EAB, many of the development partners understood the potential of the country and the role that could be played by the beekeeping sector to serve multiple development objectives of the country.

Therefore, the major development bottlenecks of the apiculture sector in the country have been identified and strategies were designed to solve them. Positive changes are underway as a result of coordinating such efforts from different directions. Moreover, the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) of the country has identified the sector as one of the major sectoral areas, which were prioritized based on their economic importance for further analysis of the sector's situation to refine the bottlenecks and propose solutions.

“If honey bees become extinct, human society will follow in four years. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man.”

Albert Einstein

THE NEED TO PUSH APICULTURE SUBSECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

The multi development benefit of apiculture subsector development has being evidenced in many ways. As we are facing up the impact of climate change, the need for economic activity that supports environmental well-being is becoming more important. Investment in development such as apiculture which is a reliable income generating activity, means of enhancing food production and productivity, is vital for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. Development of apiculture can be said to have multiple development gains (improving life of the local people via income and employment generation, biodiversity conservation, enhancing food production and productivity, and diversifying foreign currency).

Unlocking the potential of the apiculture sector needs careful collaborative engagement in all aspects of apiculture development within and among stakeholders. Strengthening collaboration among apiculture subsector actors is important in order to match programme/project actions to the scale of apiculture sector challenge. Developing the beekeeping industry needs collaborative engagement of various actors including Private and public sectors as well as other international, national and bilateral development partners.

INVITATION

The Ethiopian Apiculture Board (EAB), the National APIMONDIA Symposium Organizing Committee (NASOC) and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia - represented by H.E. the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Development - wholeheartedly invite you to participate in the Symposium and at the same time visit historic and momentous landmarks in human history.

To participate in the Symposium please register via registration@apisymposium2018.org and visit our website (www.apisymposium2018.org)

For further information please contact us via ethioapic2012@gmail.com,

Cellphone; +251911879963, +251921785839