

ISSUE
28

The African Honey

47TH APIMONDIA CONGRESS EDITION **MAGAZINE**



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FOREWORD

The 47th Edition of Apimondia is happening again in Istanbul, here in Turkey, where thousands of beekeepers had converged 5 years back to showcase the business, developmental, research and technological milestones in the apiculture sector globally. The memories are still fresh.

The African fraternity continues to identify with beekeepers and our friends across the globe, more particularly those from Ukraine and the Russian Federation, who unfortunately find themselves on opposing sides due to political differences between the two sister nations. It should not be. We still have fond memories of the Apimondia Congress held in Kiev in 2013, where Africa made probably its best showcase of the apiculture industry. Certainly, we were looking forward to a similar, if not a greater, opportunity to meet the world in Russia this time around. It wasn't to be. Today we are in Istanbul, a great city which accepted the responsibility to ensure there is continuity of our global culture of meeting after every two years.

We empathise with the beekeepers and other stakeholders in the apiculture sector in Ukraine, on whose soil there is conflict. They have lost livelihoods; they have lost bee colonies; they have lost apiaries; they have lost their businesses. In extreme unfortunate cases, many have lost lives and dear ones. May the Good Lord grant them an everlasting peace – Amen!

Let the 47th Apimondia Congress remind us that we need peace. We urge the United Nations and all global citizens to work towards a peaceful resolution of the 6-months long conflict. No one should take pleasure in the loss of lives and property!

Bosco Okello
EDITOR

LESSONS for the African Honey Sector Amidst Russia-Ukraine Conflict

By Bosco Okello,
CEO, ApiTrade Africa



The Russia-Ukraine crisis is derailing Africa's slow recovery from COVID-19. A recent study by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) of the impact of the war in Ukraine on sustainable development in Africa shows that the effect of the crisis on Africa's economies is complicated and diverse, in part because of the global geo-political influences of the West and the East on the continent. The agricultural production systems is directly affected by the disruption of supply of fertilizers from Russia and Ukraine, as some of the sea ports have been directly affected by the conflict.

According to Ms. Josefa Sacko the African Union Commission's (AUC) Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), the year 2022 is the Year of Nutrition. The African Union (AU) declared 2022 the Year of Nutrition with the main objective to strengthen resilience in food and nutrition security. Increasing food production and expanding Africa's food basket will serve both nutrition and resilience objectives. In this regard, there must be intentional investments toward increased productivity and production of traditional and indigenous crops – including bee farming which is part of Africa's tradition. This also requires a systems approach by integrating nutrition into resilient and strong

health systems and social protection systems. These systems directly affect millions of small holder beekeeping communities across the continent, whose hopes are increasingly reliant on finding good markets for their honey and other bee products.

Ukraine provides some insights. First, Ukraine is home to some 400,000 beekeepers caring for 3.6 million colonies. According to Brotherhood of Ukrainian Beekeepers, an NGO of 55,000 beekeeper members, a great number of the beekeepers have abandoned their apiaries as they flee from invading Russian forces or they join the war front to fight. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is already leading to disruptions of current and possibly next year's world honey supplies.

Ukrainian honey – which comprised about a third of Europe's honey imports before the war – was mainly derived from the country's sunflower crop. The war has already led to widely reported shortages of sunflower oil and prompted rising prices and increasing demand across the wider edible oils sector as producers rushed to source alternative vegetable oils. And given the sunflower crop was primarily grown in the war-torn east and south of the country, the global honey supply situation is likely to worsen.

We should not forget that Covid pandemic had earlier driven significant shopper demand, while the stockpiling of honey in the US in 2021, poor average crop and “well-publicized global supply chain issues” had worsened the situation even before the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

There are alternatives to Ukrainian honey in terms of colour, taste and blending potential, for example in Europe, South America, Africa and certain Asian origins.

So, does Russia-Ukraine conflict present any opportunity for Africa to boost its honey supply to Europe? In the short term, this is not possible as the consumer preferences do not switch so fast to alternative honey from elsewhere. African honey, especially from the savannah areas, generally tend to be dark amber and with strong flavor. This is significantly different from Ukrainian honey which comes from sunflower crops, and is lighter in colour and milder in taste. Certainly any further impact on Ukrainian sunflower planting this year would likely further exacerbate the current situation with implications for supply well into 2023 and beyond and buyers are monitoring if they can search alternative sources, without compromising the demands for their brands. There is increasing production of light amber and white honey in the highland areas of Cameroon, Ethiopia, South Africa, Egypt and other countries which fit better with the taste and colour profiles of European consumers. These honey can easily enter and establish in the European market. For that to happen, however, suppliers must be able to provide sufficient quantities of their orders consistently. More importantly, they must build capacity to meet the sanitary and phytosanitary requirements demanded by the importing countries.

One of the most depressing news from the Ukrainian honey sector is that a big number of beekeepers have abandoned their apiaries and run away from fighting.

Yet a significant proportion has also joined the battlefield or lost their apiaries, warehouses and factories altogether. Similar situations are unfolding in conflict areas such as Ethiopia, Sudan, DR Congo, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen.

So, with many local initiatives to promote commercial beekeeping among the youth and women in the continent, African beekeeping stakeholders should focus of making peace a central pillar in their message to the political leadership. Short of this, the millions of kwacha, shillings and dollars spent on buying bee hives and paying for honey collection hubs will be up in flames. Democracy and diplomacy are key aspects of our daily life and livelihood – and I will understand if beekeepers in Kwazulu Natal find this message difficult to fathom. Our Ukrainian brothers and sisters understand the value of this statement. We also understand them.

The AU's vision of strengthening resilience in food and nutrition security should therefore target intentional investments toward increased productivity and production of traditional and indigenous crops – including bee farming which is part of Africa's tradition. Bees continue to work, make honey and multiply even during draught and conflicts. Beekeepers can harvest good quality honey in those arid and semi-arid areas, with some minimal support. Millions of small holder beekeeping communities across the continent can return to harvest honey once conflicts and fighting in their localities subside. The best case scenario is for the AU to work towards silencing all the blazing guns by 2030! We will see some of the best honey from Somalia.



RESILIENCE OF THE AFRICAN APICULTURE SECTOR

“
...as always, Africa bounced back and the sector is ready to take the African honey and beeswax to the world.
”



David Mukomana

President – Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa

The Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa is humbled by the resilience shown by the Apiculture Sector across Africa with so many activities and initiatives happening despite the setbacks caused by the Covid-19 lockdowns. The travel bans during the pandemic affected beekeepers and the whole value chain as even local movement of beekeepers to their apiaries were restricted as well as cancellation of regional apiculture events. But as always, Africa bounced back and the sector is ready to take the African honey and beeswax to the world.

As the continental stakeholders prepare to convene at the forthcoming 47th Apimondia Congress in Istanbul, Turkey, there is need to take stock of the major highlights for the Commission:

Apimondia Africa Virtual Meeting (September 2020)

Africa hosted one of the first Apimondia virtual meetings at a regional level where stakeholders from more than 30 African countries attended as well as members from Europe, Asia and the Americas. The 3-Hour virtual meeting set the tone for African stakeholders to overcome the barrier that was created by the travel restrictions and engage on matters affecting the sector. A number of virtual meetings were hosted almost every week in different countries with the sole agenda of growing our African Apiculture Sector.

World Bee Day Celebrations

The African Continent has fully embraced the World Bee Day celebrations and a number of events have been organised so far, both virtually and physically soon after the relaxation of the travel restrictions. The notable celebrations include the virtual event hosted by the Youths for Apiculture

Initiative of Nigeria and the two physical celebrations in Mafeteng, Lesotho (May 2021) and Nakuru, Kenya (May 2022) where the Regional Commission was invited to join the celebrations. The desire for many African countries to formally host national World Bee Day celebrations in recognition of the role bees play in our lives and environmental conservation is growing by the year. The level of awareness created through these events hosted so far is very high, thanks to the apiculture stakeholders across Africa who have put it upon themselves to lobby for formal recognition of the role bees play and by default, the importance of beekeeping as a profession.

Special mention was made on the efforts the North West Provincial Government made in 2019 at 46th Apimondia Congress in Montreal, Canada where the Member of Executive Council (MEC) for Agriculture and Rural Development led a delegation to lobby to the Province to host the Continental 2020 World Bee Day Celebrations. However, this event was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The commitment being made by government even at provincial levels has seen a rapid growth in beekeeping and the Commission has noticed a marked increase in formal engagements around World Bee Day in many African countries. The Commission is confident a continental World Bee Day celebration is on the cards, an event that will change the apiculture landscape in Africa at large!

The Regional Commission Initiatives

The Commission plays a critical role in ensuring that the African continent has an ear to the developments and discussions happening at the highest level with the view of cascading that information to the grassroots across the region. Further, the Commission is mandated with the responsibility of representing the Federation and promoting its programs and events.

Some of the programs the Regional Commission has rolled out other than promoting the World Bee Day include the following:

Beekeeping in schools – with the increase in global demand for honey, there is an urgent need to recruit more beekeepers to join the profession and the best way to do so is to catch them young when still at school. This initiative was started with a model project in Buhera where at least 80 pupils from 7 schools were trained in hive making and beekeeping in December 2021. The Commission sourced funds to buy the timber and other materials for the hives with some of the funds donated by OMI Solutions (South Africa) that saw production of more than 80 hives that were distributed to the participating schools. 3 of the schools have harvested honey and another school is already generating revenue from making hives and selling to other schools in the district. Now the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education's District office is proposing that this initiative be rolled out to as many schools as possible as he sees the future for many of the rural kids who have been struggling with schools fees.

Young Beekeepers Initiative: The future of beekeeping lies in the hands of the youths and the Commission has made efforts to establish young beekeepers forum across the African continent, a concept started with Nigeria Youth for Apiculture Initiative. Now there are the SADC, East African and North African Young Beekeepers Initiatives where young people are engaging each other and sharing experiences on beekeeping and related businesses. A pilot project has already been done in Limpopo Province (South Africa) with the help of The Village Markets Africa and funded by Barloworld. The Algerian youths are taking this initiative further with at 6 young professionals planning to attend Apimondia Congress in Istanbul, Turkey in August 2022 and looking forward to an extended stay for them to learn more from the Turkish Beekeepers.

Green Jobs Rural Youths: The Africa Region has seen the partnership with FAO paying dividend with training of rural youths under the Green Jobs for Rural Youths from 4 districts in Sierra Leone and 6 districts in Zimbabwe. The immediate impact of this training is encouraging with some youths in Sierra Leone now making hives for their project and intending to sell to other beekeepers whilst one cluster in Zimbabwe has recorded almost 75% colonization within 2 months. These are initiatives that Africa needs in every country in order to address the high rate of unemployment among the youths, a situation that will reduce substance abuse being caused by idleness.

New Membership

The Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa is excited with the work done for far to encourage institutions and associations in the apiculture sector to be part of the great federation. The Commission is grateful for the new members that are joining the Apimondia family. These new members are:

Tanzania Beekeeping Development Organisation (TABEDO) – Tanzania: Full Member

Fédération Nationale des Apiculteurs Tunisiens - FNAT, Tunisia: Full Member

Nigeria Apiculture Platform (NAP) – Nigeria: Full Member

Action contre la Déforestation - ACD, Congo D.R.: Associate Member

The Regional Commission warmly welcomes the new members into the Apimondia African members' family and looking forward to increased contribution towards shaping our apiculture in Africa.

Africa is part of the global beekeeping family and need to join the proceedings at the highest level. There are a number of developments happening across the globe that Africa need to be part of in order to develop the sector in line with global standards. These developments include the promotion of bee-friendly agro-chemicals and use of honey bees for increased food production. Thus Africa does not need to just attend the international events but become members of Apimondia in order to contribute in shaping the future of the sector. Hence, the Commission encourages more institutions and associations in the region to consider becoming Apimondia members so together we can shape the sector both at regional and global level.

Looking into the future, Africa needs to increase the frequency stakeholders are meeting in order to discuss, lobby and present issues that will not only address day to day challenges faced by stakeholders but share experiences that will help transform the apiculture sector into a strategic pillar that helps us fulfill our vision of the Africa We Want.

South Africa has come to the fore with plans to host the 3rd Apimondia Africa Symposium to be hosted by International Conference Centre (ICC) Durban from the 20th to 24th March 2023. It is a Symposium that every African country needs to attend as it promises to offer a rich program covering both scientific and developmental topics that cannot be missed.

Finally, as we go for the 47th Apimondia Congress, we need to reflect deeply and introspect if it is not time for Africa to host an Apimondia Congress. We salute Ethiopia for the attempt in Montreal, Canada in 2019 but we learn from the experience and look ahead to 2023. Bringing the Congress to Africa will be the best present we can collectively give our Motherland. We have the resources, we have the ability, we have the environment, we have the best honey and beeswax and most importantly, we have the opportunity in 2023.

All these and other important matters can be best discussed in person during the 47th Apimondia Congress in the Africa Round Table Session on the 27th August 2022, a session every African delegate should not miss.

Let Africa rise for the time is now. Halala Africa!



Figure: The participants commencing their street procession during the World Bee Day 20th May celebration in Nakuru City, Kenya.

WORLD BEE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Lesotho and Kenya Experience

On the 20th May 2021, a woman-led beekeeping initiative, JMM Beekeeping Farm, made history by hosting the first World Bee Day Celebrations in Lesotho in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation, District of Mafeteng and Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa. The event whose aim was multi-faceted, show-cased the potential of beekeeping in Lesotho and raise awareness on the crucial role bees play in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially empowerment of rural communities, job creation and environmental conservation. The exhibition side of the celebrations did not disappoint given the quality of the honey and other value-added products that were on display.

The celebrations lived up to the intended goals of raising awareness among the Basotho nation with a number of initiatives born out of the recommendations that were delivered by the Apimondia Representative now being pursued by the stakeholders with determination.

And 2022 celebrations were even more elaborate with

more stakeholders attending the event in big numbers as the covid-19 public gathering restrictions had been relaxed and hosted in Butha-Butha by a young beekeeper – Mr Malefetsane Makhabane. The event was graced and officiated by the Lesotho Prime Minister who was accompanied by the Minister of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation and other government officials. The Prime Minister, who was amazed by products displayed at the event, announced the urgent need to meet with beekeepers to map the way forward as he confessed that he was not aware of such a crucial role bees play in the food systems, human wellness, environmental conservation and the economy at large. Since then, the Lesotho beekeeping sector is focusing on short-term and long-term strategy of the sector led by farmers with the technical expertise of:

- Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation;
- Civil Society Organizations;
- Technologies for Economic Development (TED); and
- The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) managed by the UNDP

Apiculture Platform of Kenya (APK), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation, Nakuru County Government, Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa, UNFAO and other industry stakeholders host a series of activities to mark the World Bee Day celebrations in Nakuru City, from 18th to 20th May 2022. This year's Theme was **"Bee Engaged – Celebrating the diversity of Bees and Beekeeping Systems"**.

The planned activities included the excursion where participants were taken to Baraka Agricultural College to learn about the Beekeeping value chain activities and a visit to a beekeeper's farm to learn some of the farmer-own management practices. There were 35 industry stakeholders (local and regional) showcasing their beekeeping equipment, technologies, honey and other hive value-added products such as lotions, Propolis, bees wax candles and pollen.

The major focus for the presentations on the 19th of May was on factors causing low production levels of bee products in Kenya despite the great potential, investments, programs and private sector involvement with appropriate recommendations being suggested for stakeholders to adopt. The big four agenda, policy environment and government exertions in development of beekeeping value chain in the country was well articulated by Mr James Muriuki – State Department for Livestock in the Ministry of Agriculture. Other areas addressed were the role of Apiculture Platform of Kenya (APK) in promoting beekeeping value chain in Kenya and the future outlook as well as the honey monitoring plan, traceability and market prospects for Kenyan honey at a local level as well as export markets.

There was a procession on the 20th May with participants walking through the Nakuru City



Figure: The invited guests following proceedings during the World Bee Day celebrations in Mafeteng, Lesotho May 2021

streets with bee protection and conservation messages. Social events, traditional dances and speeches from the invited guests delivered a strong message on the importance of bees to mankind and the environment.

The celebrations were attended by high level guests that helped deliver the strong message who included:

- Madam Ann Nyaga Chief Administrative Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary of Agriculture.
- The Permanent Secretary Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Hon. Harry Kimtai.
- The Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa President, Mr David Mukomana.
- Directors AU IBAR, Dr Nick Nwankpa and Dr Sarah Osiya,
- Representative UNFAO, Mrs Carla Mucavi,
- Nakuru County Government representatives among others.

And the message from the Apimondia Representative across Africa on this important day is clear and straightforward, Africa must conserve the environment NOW to secure the future of generations to come and this can be achieved through beekeeping.

Report by:
Mme Mantopi M. Lebofa (Lesotho)
Mr Fredrick Odera (Kenya)



Figure: From Left to Right; Mr Robert Mtisi from Zimbabwe, Mr Stephen Kagia (Chairperson APK), Mr David Mukomana (Apimondia Africa Regional President), Fredrick Odera (CEO APK) and Mr Paul Chepkener (Kerio Valley Development Authority)

NORTH WEST PROVINCE BEE TALES



Musings on different aspects of beekeeping in North West Province, South Africa



The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is a government department based in the North West province, South Africa offering full support to farmers. Bee Farming where beekeepers keep bees for their sustained livelihood, are some supported by the department. The province is divided into four districts namely: Ngaka Modiri Molema, Bojanala, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati and Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

Currently the Beekeepers in the province are selling liquid honey, Creamed Honey, Propolis and comb honey. They also participate in local exhibitions, provincial events and are involved in the Removal and Release (RR) programme in various government buildings and households in their various areas in their spare time. The department offers support to beekeepers through extension services, funding bee infrastructure development and/or equipment.

The Department supports Beekeepers in disseminating information through our extension services and further provide training through the Agricultural Research Council (ARC). Their main focus is training Beekeepers

and this is bearing fruit as we begin to notice apparent growth in production and the emergence of young Bee farmers who are steadily progressing.

Vandalism and theft are great challenges that Beekeepers are facing in the country. The dry vegetation or drought is also a problem in some districts and this can be stressful on beekeepers as it causes low honey production to no production at all. Unavailability of land poses a challenge as land is being cleared and set aside for developmental activities. This has further created great challenges for our bee sector as trees also have to be cut down for further extensive development activities and this contributes to reducing the biodiversity which is a great factor in beekeeping as honey production is dependent highly on plantation flowers.

Opportunities

The opportunities in the Apiculture Sector are multi-faceted, ranging from employment creation, wealth creation and food security to environment conservation. Empowerment Opportunities; the government of South Africa –



Collection of Honey Industry activity pictures from North West Province, South Africa

Lets Grow North West Together

North West province in particular is making efforts to assist the beekeeping programme/s under the leadership of our MEC, Honourable Ms Desbo Mohono, who is very passionate and want to see beekeeping growing in the North West Province and alleviating poverty. In terms of market it has spiked both locally and internationally. Many people in South Africa are turning to honey as a substitute for sugar and other hive products as a source of natural medicines. Bees play a very important function through crop, plant and grass pollination. Bees have actually been referred to as faithful pollinators on plant, thus beekeeping has become vital not only for the honey but also for food production thus, ensuring food security.

The Future

The North West Province will continue to support emerging beekeepers especially women and youth in Agriculture and establishing an Agric Bee Village in the province by training and raising more awareness to the communities. As a department we want to see beekeepers promoting their local bee products to the communities and benefitting from it. The most important beekeepers should be able to penetrate the agro-processing activities by processing bee products to the markets and local communities. We would like to see the market grow to the level of distributing to different institutions like hotels and restaurant regularly and internationally, ultimately.

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INCREASING SMALLHOLDERS' INCOMES THROUGH BEEKEEPING

“I attended beekeeping training at the Sireet Centre of Excellence (COE) office and after that training, another team of farmers came to teach us more about beekeeping. From these training sessions, I learned more about beekeeping and how to get a market for honey and other farm products.”

At Producers Direct, we understand that agriculture is a key contributor to the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and we work with them to support ownership of key crop value chains and on-farm diversification into multiple crops as a key way to increase incomes. By growing multiple additional crops and products, in addition to the main cash crop, there's potential for farmers to earn more and grow their incomes.

We've seen first-hand the wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise which exists in underserved rural farming communities. Our model and approach focuses on creating opportunities for smallholders to share, build upon and strengthen this knowledge and expertise. Using our farmer-led COEs, smallholder farmers are learning how to implement new and innovative farming techniques through peer to peer training to transform their farms into sustainable businesses.

One of the ways our farmers are diversifying is through beekeeping. This is a fairly manageable venture that farmers can add around their farm households, it is flexible and does not require as much tending as keeping livestock and other crops. Additionally, beekeeping fits well into smallholder farming systems because it does not take up a lot of space, does not rely on other factors like soil fertility or compete with other resources needed by crops and livestock, making it a suitable venture even for young people.

With this in mind, Producers Direct has introduced modern beekeeping through training and recruitment of bee farmers across East Africa and Peru, to enable them to set up bee hives, produce and sell honey. Using our four-part, farmer-led support services, farmers are given training on beekeeping, and training on the importance of documenting farm records and how they can make use of the data to make better beekeeping decisions. Farmers then receive funding in form of beehives and equipment needed to launch their honey enterprises. Bee farmers then work with our network of youth coordinators who create links to local markets where farmers can sell their honey.

Last year in partnership with support from UK-Kenya Tech Hub and UK aid, Producers Direct held a campaign dubbed Youth Direct na AgriBiz. A digital national innovation showcase to provide a platform for young agri-preneurs to showcase their work in the agriculture space and share their successes from these innovations. During the competition, three engineering students from Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in Kenya won the best innovation award.

Their brilliant innovation, IBees is an automated non-invasive method designed to help beekeepers remotely monitor the state of their beehives in real-time on their phones. Through the IBees mobile application, beekeepers get alerts about any potential risks to their hives, enabling them to act fast and deal with these day to day challenges that they experience. They can also, through the app, keep apiary records such as harvests and beehive operations tasks and schedules that allow them to track progress and stay up to date.

Reaching young people has been a fundamental goal for Producers Direct and for five years, we have been working with youth groups across our network. The youth campaign was an opportunity for Producers Direct to provide a platform where young people in agriculture can interact with stakeholders in the industry and explore the social and economic barriers that have disincentivised young people from working in agriculture and how these barriers can be broken down and allow millions more young people to work in this crucial sector.

Through the four main components of our model, we've supported farmers to start their businesses, earn additional incomes and share their expertise with other farmers. "In one of the training sessions, we got loans in the form of bee hives to help us set up our beekeeping businesses. This was helpful because we are now able to put our training to practical use." Our bee farmers in Uganda and Tanzania have, to date, received 986 Langstroth bee hives and 60 complete kits of protective honey harvesting gear.

Alongside our work with farmers, we are creating a farmer-owned brand of honey. By purchasing Producers Direct honey, hundreds more smallholder farms will become sustainable businesses. This honey is currently on sale in Kenya with plans to scale out across our network.

Beekeeping has the potential to supplement or enhance the incomes of our smallholder farmers across East Africa and Peru, adding an additional \$29 a month (over 50% increase for farmers earning \$1.35 a day), according to our research. Our goal is to continue to work together with farmers to sustain this growth, support their beekeeping enterprises by providing them with finance and linking them with markets where they can sell their honey and in future, other bee hive products.

Article by Margaret Mimoh



MOZAMBIQUE

BEE BUZZ

Conversation with The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER)

Briefly introduce yourself to the readers:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER), is the body of the Government of Mozambique with competences in the areas of agriculture, livestock, agricultural hydraulics, agro-forestry plantations. Among the various attributions in the areas of livestock, food security and local economic development, highlight its role in the promotion and approval of legislation, policies and strategies for livestock development; promotion of good practices that ensure food and nutrition security and intersectoral coordination and sustainable use of available resources.

What bee products are made/processed/sold in Mozambique?

The products include Propolis, Beeswax, Honey which are mostly sold locally and regionally.

What are some of the services you offer if any?

As a government body, we are currently in the process of designing the regulation of the honey value chain, together with partners (civil society, research institutions and the private sector), in order to certify the Mozambique Honey.

Some key actions include:

- Elaboration of the National Beekeeping Plan (NBP);
- Mapping of apiaries and beekeepers;
- Preparation of the National Residues Management Plan;
- Revitalization of the National Beekeeping Council.



What challenges do the honey sub-sector currently face in trading their products / services?

Lack of regulated and enforced quality standards and of laboratory capacity for testing under all relevant parameters

Most beekeepers own only 5 beehives, many lack protective equipment for harvest (38%) and few buy equipment (20%); productivity is low (12.1 kg/hive on average)

What opportunities do you see in the honey bee industry in your country and beyond?

The country has a great potential (Forests and other wooded lands cover about 66% of the country, making Mozambique highly suited for beekeeping).

Botanic origin (high nutritional and medicinal values), country is GMO free with low use of agrichemicals, beekeeping stimulates conservation and improves livelihoods.

Export - No cases of Varroa sp. or American Foulbrood recorded.

Growth of the industry – processing

Where do you see Mozambican honeybee industry in the next five years?

Leading the honey export for more competitive markets

Labeling Mozambique honey as one of the best in the world (quality)

By Ercilio Zimba

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ORGANO SEVEN, A DECADE OF GREAT BUZZES

By Felix Chiyangwa

One of the major achievements ApiTrade Africa is proud of is the growth of the Apiculture sector in Africa with a number of associations and private companies that have established themselves to be major players in the honey sector in the continent. Many companies got massive exposure to the regional and international opportunities through ApiTrade Africa's flagship activities – ApiExpo Africa and The African Honey Magazine. This edition will focus on one of the companies that is doing well in Zimbabwe, courtesy of the ApiExpo Africa edition held at the Harare International Conference Centre (HICC) in October 2014.

Organo Seven (Pvt) Limited is an Agro-Processing company specialising in apiculture services that covers:

- Honey bulking and processing
- Honey Trade
- Beekeeping Equipment and Accessories supplies
- Bee Hive Manufacturing
- Honey Processing Equipment supplies
- Beekeeping Training and Consultancy

The company was incorporated in 2010 with the capacity to process at least 2 tonnes of raw honey per day (40 tonnes per month) and hive production of up to 50 (KTB) per day, got to be known when it exhibited at the One Africa Pavilion in Kiev,

Ukraine during the 43rd Apimondia Congress in September 2013 where the company was part of Team Zimbabwe. The company was exhibiting honey and bees wax, the primary hive products Africa is renowned for producing.

During the 4th ApiExpo Africa Edition in Harare, Zimbabwe (October 2014), Organo Seven was the major exhibitor with 18 square metre stand jointly exhibiting with Thomas Apiculture, a well established French equipment manufacturer as they partnered to be their distributor in Southern Africa. The company won the 2nd Best Overall Exhibitor Award.

Since then, Organo Seven has participated at regional and international honey exhibitions including in Malawi (Trade Fair), Botswana (Food Fair), South Africa (SAITEX), Rwanda (5th ApiExpo Africa edition) and South Korea



(44th Apimondia Congress).

To date, Organo Seven has supplied a number of beekeeping projects with bee-keeping and honey processing equipment and services as they have established themselves at a One-Stop-Shop for all apiculture services. A number of development partners are now working with Organo Seven given their ability to deliver quality services and equipment with the assurance of a ready market for the honey from the community projects they will have funded.

The services have now been expanded into the region where they have offered hive making, beekeeping and general consultancy for projects in Zambia, South Africa, Lesotho and recently Sierra Leone.

Organo Seven is also engaged in some community development projects as complimentary service in partnership with the Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa where the company provides its technical support and at times equipment where community participants are engaged in hive production. The company offered training and equipment for production of at least 120 hives that were given to the beekeepers that were affected by Cyclone Idai in Chimanimani (Zimbabwe). Another project that Organo Seven supported is the Beekeeping in Schools Initiative pilot project done at Muzokomba Government High School where more than 80 school kids were trained in hive making and beekeeping in December 2021. The Regional Commission also got assistance from Organo Seven for the SADC Young Beekeepers Initiative pilot project in Limpopo, South Africa.

Despite the potential Organo Seven has and the production capacity, its growth has been stalled by lack of adequate working capital resulting in idle capacity for its machinery. Given adequate funding facilities, Organo Seven has the capacity to buy and process at least 200 tonnes of raw

honey annually.

And Organo Seven is proudly exhibiting at the 47th Apimondia Congress under the One Africa Pavilion with the objective of not only promoting Zimbabwean honey but be part of the great African story shared to the whole world through its honeys and bees wax. The next few years will be defining not only for Organo Seven but the continental honey sector as the sector is working hard to see more communities engage in beekeeping as a form of employment and empowerment, hence a sharp increase in honey production that will need proper processing facilities and ready markets. Thus, Organo Seven sees the wisdom in African stakeholders exhibiting African honeys and hive products under One Africa Pavilion. The world will be looking to Africa for supply of quality natural honey and bees wax and Organo Seven is ready to handle the increase in demand for the African hive products.

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Angola Network

Angola Network was founded in 2003 and incorporated under Angolan law with Tax Identification Number – NIF: 5121001193, business sector agriculture, livestock, agro-industry and trade.

Since 2012, Angola Network has been dedicated to research and development of beekeeping in Angola, in production of honey from wild origin, 100% natural, without the addition of additives, sugar or any other type of artificial substance with brand the MAXMEL. The honey is sold in the country through distributors in the food sector.

MAXMEL, offers free beekeeping capacity building to rural communities.

Currently, we are facing challenges to access external market, due to a lack of

investments and certification.

Angola is one of the countries in the African continent which possess huge honey and beeswax production potential, owing to its varied ecological and climatic conditions, rich of diverse flora and fauna.

In the next five years, we expect to see our product to other markets.

By Andre Moda,
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Rwanda's ARDI makes 4 decades of honey industry promotion



ARDI Collage

Association Rwandaise pour la promotion du Développement Intégré (ARDI) is an Organization that supports that has supported Rwanda's apiculture industry for a long time and was created in 1982. It was legally registered on June 20th, 1983 which was updated by Ministerial Decree No 113/11 of October 7, 2004. ARDI is classified among the first Civil Society organizations established in Rwanda. The motivation for its formation was to extend support to different groups in their integrated development initiatives as well as examining and shaping projects from grassroots.

The vision of ARDI is to be a national and regional reference organization in integrated agriculture and livestock, using appropriate modern technologies, for the social well-being of the population. ARDI's focus areas include beekeeping, agriculture, food security and Agri-Nutrition, livestock, as well as environmental protection initiatives to help reduce the adverse effects of climate change. It also does a lot of lobbying and advocacy for the beneficiaries of their interventions.

Honey industry specific services:

Monitoring and facilitating the honey value chain through a strong multidisciplinary team.

Training beekeepers in modern beekeeping including the youth and women.

Training beekeepers in bee products processing.

Supporting beekeepers to find the modern equipment to increase honey production qualitatively and quantitatively.

Conducting needs assessment to define needs and opportunities for the beekeeping value chain in Rwanda.

Carrying out research on bee forage to increase the honey production.

Facilitating beekeeping cooperatives to access legal registration -at District/RCA level and well as linking the cooperatives to the honey market in collaboration with ABDC Ltd (APIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY) to get revenue.

Challenges and Solutions

Today there is a big number of elderly beekeepers. To deal with this challenge, ARDI is integrating the youth and women in beekeeping.

There are also many traditional beehives whose yields are meager leading to insufficient honey production. To deal with this challenge ARDI partners with financial institution so that cooperatives can obtain financial support for their investments in modern beekeeping equipment.

Diseases and predators which reduce productivity. ARDI is training the beekeepers on how to control these pests and predators which reduce the honey production.

Climate change effect is a common problem in the world. ARDI and beekeepers are dealing with this issue by planting the bee forage and reforestation to protect environment. This challenge pushed ARDI and IMBARAGA organization under the support of VETERINAIRE SANS FRONTIERE/ BELIGIQUE to implement an IRCO project (Improved Health, Protection & Resilience of Communities & Ecosystem through One Health Promotion) which will contribute on climate and environmental protection.

Low bee products diversification (honey and beeswax). ARDI is promoting the production of propolis and bee venom production a move that will increase the revenue of beekeepers get.

The future we see

Increased number of professional beekeepers.

Increased the honey production qualitatively and quantitatively. Promotion of modern beekeeping equipment as made in Rwanda to create job and increase the revenue of beekeepers.

ABDC Ltd supported to export honey in Africa; Europe and Asia.

Increased Production and processing of other hive products such as propolis, bee venom and royal jelly.

By Barahira Jean de Dieu

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IS READY TO HOST

THE 50TH



Africa is ready to host the biggest global Apiculture event - the Apimondia Congress. Many countries are taking up beekeeping as a strategic sector to solve unemployment challenges, empower rural communities, boost food production, enhance the wellness of people and combat climate change. These are the discussions Africa urgently needs and the perfect platform is the 50th Apimondia Congress on the African soil.

Tanzania hosted the 1st Apimondia Symposium on African Bees in November 2014. In response to the message from the Regional Commission for Africa, Tanzania is ready to host Apimondia Congress. We are ready and the journey is starting during the 47th Apimondia Congress in Istanbul, Turkey, where Tanzania will share our story and plan with other African members. The time is now and we shall bring the congress to Africa during the 48th Apimondia Congress in Chile.

Join the discussion to make African Apiculture sector great.
