



**GCP/RAF/408/EC**  
**« MOBILISATION ET RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES DES PETITES ET MOYENNES ENTREPRISES IMPLIQUEES DANS LES FILIERES DES PRODUITS FORESTIERS NON LIGNEUX EN AFRIQUE CENTRALE »**

**HONEY EXPORTERS WORKSHOP REPORT**

**Organised by**  
**SNV North West**



**Date: 04<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**Venue: Presbyterian Church Centre Bamenda**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The development of the export market for Cameroon Honey is one of the trajectories for development of the sector as identified during the Honey Market Study and the Honey Marketing Forum in Limbe in 2006. Nearly all organisations identified marketing or 'lack of markets' as a clear need and problem area. The quality requirements especially for exports to the EU, is such that a Honey Residue Monitoring Plan be put in place in Cameroon.

With the framework of the GCP/RAF/408/EC Project, a workshop with Potential honey exporters and partners organised in April 2008 laid down a road map towards the Honey residue monitoring scheme for Cameroon and also requirements for individual organizations to be accredited for Honey export business. The present workshop is organised in a bid to follow-up developments in the honey export process. The participants include, organizations that have been active in the Residue Monitoring scheme towards honey exports for 2009 and producer and marketing organizations that have indicated interest in exporting honey but did not know how to go about it. Resource persons came from MINEPIA and the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, Social Economy, Arts and Craft.

So far, Cameroon has been seen as one of the low risk region or countries as far as meeting or complying with the standards for honey export to EU is concerned.

The workshop began with opening remarks from the organizations setting the context of the project . The regional Delegate of the Ministry of Small and Medium Size Enterprises Social Economy and Handicrafts - MINPMEESA then took the floor, and began by briefly introducing his Ministry's function. He said they touch on all sectors except petrol. He exposed opportunities that the Honey sector can benefit including some information about the PACD PME project currently underway in the Ministry which finances small entrepreneurs up to 12 Millions fcfa.

### **Workshop Objectives**

- Update stakeholders in the honey export sector in Cameroon on the state of affairs regarding honey residue monitoring scheme.
- Jointly develop mechanism for the functioning of honey residue monitoring scheme in subsequent years.

## **2.0 UPDATING STAKEHOLDERS**

Steps in applying for the honey export to the EU required:

- Accreditation of collection centres by honey traders
- Collection of honey samples
- Laboratory analysis in an EU accredited laboratory
- Application to EU for export by MINEPIA
- Response from EU
- Export by accredited organizations in case of positive response
- Renewal of honey residue monitoring scheme for subsequent year.

- **On the issue of accreditation**

Based on the requirements in place, for a group to commercialise honey either locally or for export purposes, it has to be obtain an accreditation from the government, through the Ministry of Livestocks and Animal Husbandary. Out of the four groups that so far made up the union and that had taken upon themselves to

acquire accreditation as required by law, only one Groupe GIC Guide d'espoire had acquired the accreditation and were so far the only accredited structure in good standing to export honey in Cameroon. Three other organizations had application for accreditation in process notably TFH-RD, Oku honey cooperative and les Mielleries. Other participants in the meeting were updated on the accreditation process.

MINEPIA then emphasized the issue of accreditation as a requirement by law for any one collecting and marketing livestock products including honey. It is to be understood that, if till now the honey marketers have not been operating in accredited centres, there is need for them to become regular so that in the event of enforcement, they should be in order. Several questions came up, concerning the role of MINEPIA which was not yet understood by many bee farmers as its technicians are seen as exploiters of poor local honey producers. It was clarified that since 2006, MINEPIA had a mandate to follow up on the sanitary condition of honey commercialized in any part of Cameroon as well as other food items. This inspection attracts small fees of which most bee sellers were not aware of.

- **HONEY SAMPLING PROCEDURE (experience of GIC Guide D'espoire in Adamawa)**

Honey is sampled from a particular environment or locality in order to better analyse and ascertain its quality and marketability especially when it comes to markets that require certain norms and standards as the European case. We shared the experience of Ngaoundal. So far, Ngaoundal was the only accredited center and its experience was shared in the various stages undergone to attain this level.

They shared that a protocol was entered into with MINEPIA which then authorized them and designated a focal point in the North. This came through a request from the Union of exporters and MINEP

IA . After study, MINEPIA probably saw the added advantage in the area with the presence of a laboratory expert- a Micro-biologist and bacteriologist, who was then appointed as the focal point for the Adamawa region. 24 samples were sent for quality control and analysis.



Sharing experience on honey sampling in Ngaoundal

It was indicated that project via SNV had promised to support this cost. However, there had been some confusion, and it was necessary to follow-up on this, in order to ease this important task.

It was underscored that testing could be done at any registered lab in the EU, for export purposes to these countries. So far, no registered EU lab exists in Cameroon. EU tests only for pesticides and anti-biotics not on chemical content, water etc.

- **Laboratory analysis in an EU accredited laboratory**

Honey samples from the Ngoundal Area were analysed by APPLICA, a German based Laboratory. This analysis revealed a 100% residue free honey. The results of this analysis were then included in the dossier for application to the EU.

At the moment, the EU has acknowledged receipt of Cameroon's application (see response in annexe 2). It is worth mentioning that the Honey Residue Monitoring Plan presented by Cameroon is deemed to comply with the European Community requirements. Therefore there is a proposal that Cameroon be added to the Annexe for honey eligible countries. This would be effected when next the list is updated.

Once the list is updated and Cameroon is included, only GIC Guide D'espoire is authorised to export honey from Cameroon for the next one year period. For subsequent years, the Honey residue monitoring plan will be revised. During this revision, organizations interested in exporting honey would have to join the residue monitoring plan.

### **3.0 WAY FORWARD**

Concerning the way forward, several key points were arrived at.

- It is important to better organise the honey exporters' union which was created in order to seek common quality standards suitable for external markets. This required the new and other interested groups to communicate more with the existing team via all modern communication means; email etc and for the team to intensify internal communication.
- There is no urgency in adding more members to the existing union at regional levels but rather to have information well communicated, which can enable people at regional levels to act. The scheme should be set up based on the precise needs of members
- Those willing to join can always join the scheme. Yet it is more important to be accredited first
- Government needs to make its Directorate in charge of honey-created in 2006 more functional and it needs to reach out to the bee farmers in order to furnish them with more information on available opportunities etc. Meanwhile the funds and subventions set aside for bee farms should be seen to actually reach and benefit them. More sensitization should be done right to the grassroots.
- Bee farmers need to comply with the accreditation requirement, which further qualifies them to invite government technical services – MINEPIA notably to come to their aid in training and other useful information
- The organization of the exporters should equally target other regional markets especially Nigeria and CEMAC which are so far less demanding in terms of norms and standards, while aiming at meeting higher quality standards in production and processing.

### **4.0. Concluding remarks**

Through this meeting, key stakeholders notably MINEPIA and MIMPMEESSA were able to communicate useful information to SMEs of the honey sector. This includes information on funding opportunities available in these ministries and legal requirements for the SMEs to move their activities from the informal to the formal sector.

The stringent requirements for quality for the honey export market have been insightful to enhance the quality of honey producers and traders place in the national market. Several producers are also able to improve in their quality in a bid to stand as suppliers to the potential honey exporters.

Information on the dynamics of the honey export market were further shared with the participants notable aspects of niche markets in the EU for organic and fair trade labels.

Honey Exporters Workshop  
 Church Centre Bamenda  
 04<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Attendance Sheet

No	Name	organization	Contact tel./email	Sign
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## Annexe

### Some information on the situation of honey production

<b>Name of organization</b>	<b>Number of beefarmers</b>	<b>Quantity of honey production/tons/year</b>	<b>Price per liter IN FCFA</b>	<b>Other apiculture/derivatives</b>
ANCO	2500	40 TONS	1600-1900	Bee wax, propolis, creams, savon, linements, candles, and drinks
HIC	500	2.5	1800	Honey savon only
Bee Mixed, Wum	196	460 liters	1500	Honey wax and propolis
SOWEBEFU	200	2 tons	250	Bee wax and honey
OHS Ltd	211	8.5 tons	2500	Honey, bee wax, honey dinks and propolis
HONCO	3600	65 tons	1700	Bee wax, propolis, candles, creams
TFH-RD/APAS	50	01 ton	2500	Honey and wx.

Annexe2: response on the HRMS for Cameroon



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office  
Director

**SANCO**

08.05.2009

Grange,  
JMCE/dht D(2009) 650427

**SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF CAMEROON'S RESIDUE CONTROL PLAN FOR LIVE ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS FOR 2009**

Your Excellency,

Cameroon is not currently included in the list of those countries with approved residues monitoring plans in the Annex to Commission Decision 2004/432/EC (as last amended by Commission Decision 2008/772/EC).

On 13 February 2009 I received the 2009 residues plan for honey and associated documentation (our ref A/690413) from Dr Mballa Benjamin of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA).

My services have evaluated the plan and associated information. I am pleased to inform you that, the plan presented is deemed to comply with Community requirements. Subsequently I intend to propose that Cameroon is added to the Annex to Commission Decision 2004/432/EC for honey when the Decision is next amended.

Amendment of the Annex to Commission Decision 2004/432/EC requires a legislative process which is several months in duration and requires the opinion of the Member States of the European Union. As a consequence, it will be several months before the proposed listing, if accepted, comes into effect.

My services are available for any further information that you may require.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

  
Colm Gaynor

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