



## Bee products: providing nutrition and generating income - Honeybees, beekeeping and bee products in our daily lives

until 2 September 2015

### How to participate

Send your contribution to [FSN-moderator@fao.org](mailto:FSN-moderator@fao.org) or post it on the FSN Forum website [www.fao.org/fsnforum](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum)



In collaboration with the  
**TECA Beekeeping Exchange  
Group**

Dear Members,

Today we prepared a particularly rich digest of the discussion "**Bee products: providing nutrition and generating income - Honeybees, beekeeping and bee products in our daily lives**".

Below we share with you the latest contributions that give us precious insight into the role that beekeeping plays in countries spanning all the way from Kyrgyzstan to South Africa. In addition, the facilitator of the discussion, James Edge shares some additional information on upcoming beekeeping-related events.

To read these comments in full, please click on the links that will lead you to the [discussion page](#). There you will also find the [introduction](#) and some guiding questions for you to reflect on.

We invite you to keep sharing your views and experience on how beekeeping benefits food security and nutrition in your countries and on how we can create sustainable conditions for agriculture and apiculture to coexist and to benefit from each other.

We look forward to keep learning from you!

*Your FSN Forum team*

### James Edge, facilitator of the discussion

Dear all,

Many thanks to everyone who has participated in this discussion so far.

What is apparent is the interest in beekeeping and bee products is from people with a wide range of backgrounds from beekeepers to consumers to producers. The issues themselves are also vast, from food standards to marketing to livelihoods and income generation. Bees and beekeeping is having a bit of a renaissance, with news of bee decline in the news across the globe and urban beekeeping taking off in many continents.

These discussions are also timely as Apimondia, the world federation of beekeeper associations, holds its major [apiculture congress in Korea](#) this September. Early next year we will also see the launch of the [Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#) report focussing on pollination.

We are looking forward to reading the next round of comments.

[Read James's comments online](#)

### Manoj Kumar Behera, NRM, India

Manoj shares an article that states that cross pollination by bees helps enhance the yield of staples crops by 20-40 percent. In order to counteract the negative repercussion of human activity on bees, Manoj suggest providing better training to farms and to support the inclusion of beekeeping into integrated farming models.

[Read Manoj's contribution](#)

### Nancy Morgan, FAO, United States of America

Nancy shares an analysis of the profitability of various income generating activities, including beekeeping, developed in a joint World Bank - FAO project in Tunisia.

[Read Nancy's contribution](#)

### Md.Moshfaqr Rahman, Bangladesh

Md. Moshfaqr warns against the difficulties in keeping bees due to their high susceptibility to environmental conditions.

[Read Md.Moshfaqr's contribution](#)

### Dosse Sossouga, Amis des Etrangers au Togo (ADET), Togo

Dosse informs us that apiculture is not particularly developed in Togo and that uncontrolled deforestation is harming the local bee population.

[Read Dosse's contribution](#)

### Nkwelle Nkede Flabert, Centre for Communication and Sustainable Development for all - CECOSDA, Cameroon

Nkwelle lists the most important properties of honey and gives us some information on beekeeping in the Batchenga community, Centre region of Cameroon.

[Read Nkwelle's contribution](#)

### Matraim Jusupov, FAO, Kyrgyzstan

Matraim provides an overview on the role that beekeeping plays in Kyrgyzstan. The deterioration of market infrastructure and increased production costs in recent years caused honey production to decrease from around 10 thousand tonnes a year to only 1.5 thousand tonnes.

[Read Matraim's contribution](#)

### Ben Butele-Adramah, Self Help Africa-Uganda Country, Uganda

Ben provides detailed responses to the discussion questions from the perspective of a community in Uganda. Interestingly, beekeeping has emerged as a very successful agricultural practice that is contributing to food security and enterprise development among the poorer rural population.

[Read Ben's contribution](#)

### Florence Shisanya, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Florence informs us that in her community in South Africa honey is used mainly for medical applications. Albeit playing only a small role as food, beekeeping is important for household food security as an income generating activity.

[Read Florence's contribution](#)

### Francis Wanjohi, Szent Istvan University, Kenya

Francis shares information from Kenya where individual farmers and community based organizations are involved in apiculture for income generation. They are able to get good prices for the honey because demand is always high due to its nutritional and medicinal values. Francis identifies inadequate skills, knowledge and resources as main challenges in this field.

[Read Francis' contribution](#)

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