

Constraints of bee keepers Uttarakannada

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ABSTRACT

A detailed study on beekeeping and beekeepers of Uttarakannada showed major administrative, technical, and financial constraints. Lack of subsidy to local bee boxes (17.34%), tax on extractor and bee box (18.8%), lack of supply of colonies along with boxes (15.6%) and sanction of migration grant (15.49%) are the major administrative and financial constraints of beekeepers. Non-accessibility of modern bee management technology for the practices of queen rearing (6%) and value addition of bee products are the other constraints (6.25%). Lack of awareness in disease control because of knowledge practice gap is the other problem to be noticed.

Key words: *Apis cerana*, beekeeping, constraints, value addition.

INTRODUCTION

Beekeeping in Uttarkannada has its own problems and limitations, because of constant rain during rainy season ISA type of bee boxes are not preferred. On the other hand local Newton type of bee boxes with slope roofs are preferred. But the government does not give subsidy to these bee boxes. Migration grant was earlier given but is removed now. Migration of bee colonies in coastal areas is essential for golden soapnut honey production. So there is need of migration for unifloral honey production. Skilled training is the need of the hour as it can alone give rise to future beekeepers with knowledge. Social forestry has resulted in depletion of bee flora, persistent Thai-sac-brood disease in coastal areas; difficulties in queen bee rearing are some of the other problems. Looking at the vast potential to generate honey with the natural resources, these constraints should not become hindrance for better economic prosperity. So the present study was undertaken to identify such constraints and tackling these constraints by understanding them.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

83 beekeepers from Ankola, Honnavar, Sirsi and Siddapur were randomly selected to analyze the constraints faced by the beekeepers through questionnaire. All the randomly selected 83 beekeepers were asked to report problems faced by them. Majority of beekeepers reported multiple problems/response. The constraints reported by respondents were classified into three categories, administrative, financial and technical.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Beekeepers facing multiple administrative and financial constraints (77.9%) were more than beekeepers with technical constraints. Constraints such as non-availability of subsidy for the purchase of local bee boxes (17.34%), removal of tax on extractor and bee box (18.8%), lack of

skilled training i.e., lack of supply of bee boxes along with colonies (15.6%), sanction of working capital to bee co-operative societies (0.8%), and lack of migration grant (15.49%), negligence of Beekeepers Co-operative societies was reported by 9.87%.

Among technical constraint, 6.25% felt the need of training for value added component of bee products and modern beekeeping management practices. 6% wanted to learn to rear single queen bee commercially, 1.56% was interested to know about the help from government and research agencies to solve problems of bee pests and diseases. 2.03% expressed insufficient knowledge about bee flora. Interestingly 22.09% beekeepers did not complain of any constraints.

1. Administrative and Financial constraints.

Sl.no.	Constraints	Percentage Response
1	Lack of migration grant	15.49
2	Lack of subsidy to local bee boxes	17.34
3	Negligence of bee keepers co-operative societies	9.87
4	Skilled training with supply of bee boxes along with colony	15.6
5	Tax on extractor and bee box	18.8
6	Provision of working capital to societies	0.8
	Total	77.9

2. Technical constraints of beekeeping.

Sl.no.	Constraints	Percentage response
1.	Lack of training in production of bee value Added products and lack of innovative modern technologies in beekeeping.	6.25
2.	Insufficient knowledge about flora	2.03
3.	Help from government and research institutes to solve problems of bee pests and diseases.	1.56
4.	Difficulties in commercial queen bee rearing	6.00
	Total	15.84

3.	No constraints reported	22.09
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CONCLUSION

Beekeeping and beekeepers of Uttarakannada are being encountered by a series of administrative, financial and technological constraints. Results of the study suggested that lack of skilled training from competent personnel, bee nursery, queen rearing, subsidy on bee migration and remunerative prices for bee products are the major factors affecting the beekeeping in Uttara kannada. Availability of floral calendars of the study area and propagation of bee flora is the need of the hour.

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