

FACTORS INFLUENCING OF HONEY PRODUCTION AND TECHNIQUES OF BEEKEEPING

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ABSTRACT

Honey production is a lucrative business, and it generates employment. Kanniyakumari district in Tamilnadu is a pioneer in honey production and the beekeepers depend solely on the flow season for the improving their economic condition. About 10,000 tones of forest honey were produced annually. The primary purpose of this study is to examine the factors influencing honey production and the new techniques adopted by beekeeping that may help in enhancing the productivity and economic growth of the country. The primary and secondary sources of data were utilized for this study. Data were collected from 200 sample respondents that were selected randomly from Kanniyakumari district. The collected data were analyzed using tools like Garrett ranking. To find out the factors influencing honey production, the majority of respondents have 'prepared honey for sale for further processing', and the majority of respondents belong to 'level of income' for factors affecting the adoption of new technologies in beekeeping, respectively.

Key Words: Employment, Pioneer, Techniques, Honey Production

INTRODUCTION

Beekeeping, or apiculture, concerns the practical management of social species of bees for the production of food and agriculture. These guidelines focus on the management of different social species of bees in different parts of the world.

Apiculture can provide livelihoods or a source of income in many rural areas and small farms. Modern apiculture is shifting towards a farming system that is more sustainable and respectful of indigenous bees. But sustainable agriculture requires good knowledge (and training) on the proper management of bees to optimize the natural systems and resources that beekeepers rely on. Furthermore, state-of-the-art technologies and innovations may strongly enhance beekeeping activities.

Bees are vital to the health of the environment. Their pollination activity supports biodiversity, making it the most important agro-environmental service. In fact, the value of bee pollination is estimated to be 30–50 times greater than the value of hive products such as wax and honey. In fact, close to 75 percent of the world's crops producing fruits and seeds for human consumption depend, at least in part, on pollinators for sustained production, yield, and quality, with an estimated 10 percent of the total economic value of

agricultural output for human food dependent on insect pollination. Unfortunately, external stressors frequently interfere with bee productivity and services. These include land-use changes, disease and pests, indiscriminate use of chemicals (veterinary medicines and/or pesticides), climate change, the spread of monocultures, globalization (which implies the introduction of invasive species of pathogens), and poor management practices. All of these stressors affect not only bee health but also the quality and quantity of bee products and services provided by the bees, reducing both income for beekeepers and the positive effect of bees on the environment.

Policymakers, governmental institutions, and all those implementing development projects in beekeeping should be aware of the hurdles, the advantages for the environment, and proper practices when planning a new beekeeping activity or making an already existing beekeeping activity more efficient and sustainable.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The main scope of the study is to find the factors affecting the adoption of new beekeeping technologies by beekeepers in Kanniyakumari district.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ramachandra et al, Sivaram (2012) in his article, “People of India have a long connection with beekeeping and honey since ancient times. Ancient Indians gifted some records about beekeeping as paintings or carvings on rocks. Honey and its medicinal uses with mentioned in the old Ayurveda books of India. After independence the Government of India took policy decision to revive various traditional village industries and all India Khadi and Village Industries Board was formed in 1954. Through harmonized efforts of well-joined Organizations like Khadi Village Industries Commission and State Khadi Village Industries Boards, Beekeeper’s Co-operatives and Public Institutions the beekeeping industry came into limelight of village industries in India with two decades. In view of the budding importance of beekeeping, in 1981, an All India Coordinated Research Project on honey bee Research and Training was launched by ICAR involving Agricultural Universities

Soundarapandian,(2009) The book “Beekeeping Industry in Rural Industrialization” of some discussions on Beekeeping a rural industry, Rural industrialization and Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Honey production and beekeeping industry, Beekeeping industry and rural industrialization and Policy implications. M. Soundarapandian has depicted in his book “Beekeeping Industry in Rural Industrialization” that Beekeeping in India is mainly forest based and decentralized industry. Beekeeping is an ideal activity for development as a subsidiary occupation providing supplementary income to large.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are to examine the factors influencing of honey production and to analyze the factors affecting adoption of new beekeeping technologies.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is an empirical study combining the use of both primary and secondary data.

PRIMARY DATA

Primary data were collected from the respondents directly with the help of a presented interview schedule.

SECONDARY DATA

Secondary data has been collected from various books, reports, journals, Magazines, articles and websites.

SAMPLING DESIGN

The researcher has been adopted simple random sampling techniques to collect information from 200 respondents and the analysis was made with the help of statistical tools.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Appropriate statistical tools and techniques will be used for analyzing the data to meet the above-mentioned objectives. The data will be processed and analyzed using the various techniques available. On the basis of the analysis, the data will be interpreted in the form of results and conclusions.

FACTORS INFLUENCING HONEY PRODUCTION

The factors influencing honey production are many. This may be related to Harvesting honey from bee colonies to produce colony, Use of chemicals and harvesting, managing honey bee colonies to produce colony, pollution harvesting practices, harvesting techniques, preparing honey for sale for further processing, apiary hygiene, health of the bees, extracting honey from the honey comb. Garrett ranking is applied to find out the factors influencing honey production, as presented in Table No. 1.

TABLE 1
FACTORS INFLUENCING HONEY PRODUCTION

Variables	Means	Rank
Harvesting honey from bee colonies to produce colony	57.33	II
Use of chemicals and harvesting	38.77	IX
Managing honey bee colonies to produce colony	46.44	VII
Pollution harvesting Practices	47.78	V
Harvesting techniques	52.56	III
Preparing honey for sale for further processing	58.22	I
Apiary hygiene	47	VI

Health of the bees	52.22	IV
Extracting honey from the honey comb	43.67	VIII

Source: Computed data

From the above table, it is inferred that the influencing factors in honey production among the respondents are preparing honey for sale for further processing, harvesting honey from bee colonies to produce colony, harvesting techniques, health of the bees, pollution harvesting practices, since they have the highest mean scores of 58.2, 57.33, 52.56, 52.22, and 47.78, respectively, and the least influencing factors for honey production are 'apiary hygiene', 'managing' honey bee colonies to produce colony', extracting honey from the honeycomb' 'and 'use of chemicals and harvesting', since they have the lowest mean scores of 47, 46.44, 43.67, and 38.77, respectively.

FACTORS AFFECTING ADOPTION OF NEW BEEKEEPING TECHNIQUES

The following table indicates the factors affecting adoption of new beekeeping techniques among the beekeepers during the pandemic situation using Garrertt ranking techniques.

TABLE 2**FACTORS AFFECTING ADOPTION OF NEW BEEKEEPING TECHNIQUES**

Variables	Means	Rank
Low level of income	57.06	I
Information about the technology	49.72	II
Cost of Technology	49.26	V
Availability of the technology	49.68	III
Availability of Technical knowledge	44.22	VII
Returns from the technology	47.78	VI
New technology adopted by neighbors'	49.28	IV

Source: Computed data

From the above table, using Garret scores for factors affecting adoption of new technologies, 'level of income' takes the first rank, and second rank is information about the 'technology'.

FINDINGS

The statistics have been used to find out the factors influencing honey production among the respondents who are 'preparing honey for sale for further processing', and the majority of the respondents belonging to 'level of income' are the factors affecting the adoption of new techniques in beekeeping, respectively.

SUGGESTIONS

The Central government in conjunction with the country's government should carry out public education on how to improve beekeeping and the quality and quantity of honey they produce. The financial help to the beekeepers improves their harvesting, processing, and storing methods. There is also the possibility of value addition for the honey-harvested beekeepers to ensure that they get more value for their honey.

CONCLUSION

From the present study, it is concluded that the majority of the respondents are preparing honey for sale for further processing, which is one of the major factors influencing honey production. It interferes with the respondents' 'level of income' for factors affecting the adoption of new techniques in beekeeping.

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