



# CURRENT BEEKEEPING SITUATION IN BAMYAN



Conservation Organisation for Afghan Mountain Areas – COAM

## Size of industry

- Beekeeping remains a cottage industry.
- Hive numbers range from 1 to 100+ per beekeeper, with a median size of 6 hives.
- 5 – 6 hives are considered sufficient to maintain a family at a minimal living standard of approximately \$50 per month (yield of 15 kg/hive sold @\$8-20/kg).
- Many people are entering beekeeping because it is viewed as a positive economic opportunity.

## Honey prices and marketing

- Honey is sold privately to “friends and neighbors”.
- Surplus honey is taken to the Bazaar to sell through family networks privately or is fed back to the bees.
- For the most part customers provide containers for honey.
- Prices range from \$8 -\$20 per kg, usually depending on local supply and demand.
- There is no organized wholesale honey market and a fragmented retail market.

## Honey quantity

- Honey yields range from 5 – 30 kg per hive per year, 15 kg per hive per year is a fair median yield.
- There is little bulk honey in storage.

## Honey quality

- Polyfloral honey is produced, meaning it is a mixture of floral sources rather than being from one species of plant.
- Little or no heat is used in honey processing so HMF levels should be low and diastase levels (chemical indicators of quality) should be high if the honey is less than 2 years old.
- Honey is sold strained (not filtered) in its raw state.
- Due to the dry climate, honey moisture content is generally low.
- Honey tasted by the consultant had good taste characteristics.
- Unregulated use of drugs and chemicals for disease and mite control could possibly cause contamination of honey.
- Artificial and or adulterated honey was observed on the market in Bamyan and other cities.
- There are no governmental honey quality controls being enforced.

## Disease management

- Beekeepers have difficulty controlling bacterial diseases (European and American foul brood).
- Fungal disease (chalk brood) is a problem in some areas.
- Varroa mites appear to be a problem with the European Honey bee control with use of acids and a chemical control that was not identified by the consultant.

## Alternative/value added hive products

- No alternative or value added hive products were observed in production or use.