



ENHANCING HONEY PRODUCTION IN LESOTHO

Three-quarters of rural households in Lesotho depend on agriculture for their livelihood. These households are increasingly vulnerable because of the deteriorating performance of the agriculture sector. Beekeeping and the production of honey and other hive products can help to sustain the livelihood of farmers that reside in areas with potential for apiculture. However, the sector needs to resolve a number of problems before it can realize its full potential. In response to these challenges, a project was designed with the aim of helping to improve and diversify the livelihoods of agriculturally dependent households through the promotion of commercial honey production in Lesotho.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project focused on building the capacity of the beekeeping subsector to develop the honey value chain from its current insignificant levels to becoming a noticeable player in the formal domestic market. Strategic areas of intervention involved the training of beekeepers and the relevant advisory services, the rehabilitation of the National Apiculture Centre, and the organization of beekeepers into cooperatives and associations. To achieve its objectives, the project built the technical capacity of service providers and developed beekeeping guidelines, a beekeepers' database and a beekeeping calendar. Bee farmer field schools were established for beekeepers in the four project districts and the National Apiculture Centre was rehabilitated and provided with modern equipment and instruments.

IMPACT

The project acted as a catalyst for the development of the honey value chain in Lesotho, providing critical technical and functional skills to service providers in the honey value chain. Areas of high honey production potential have now been identified and sufficient technical information provided to facilitate evidence-based policy and investment decision-making. The prospects for upscaling this initiative through existing or upcoming government or donor projects are now very high.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 265 000

Duration

May 2015 – October 2017

Resource Partner

FAO

Partner

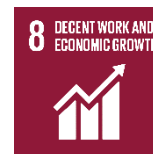
Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC)

Beneficiaries

Beekeepers, technical and extension staff of beekeeping section, and, indirectly, both commercial and subsistence farmers

ACTIVITIES

- Two Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions conducted for 66 staff members (43 male, 23 female) from relevant line ministries in all aspects of the honey value chain.
- Trained extension officers and lead beekeepers supported in conduct of training for beekeepers.
- 100 beehives and accessories distributed to beneficiaries.
- The National Apiculture Centre provided with state of the art equipment to facilitate high-end training (processing, packaging and marketing) in honey value chain.
- Baseline information gathered and training materials, including a beekeeping calendar, developed.
- 93 beekeepers trained in the four project districts.
- Bee farmer field schools established in all four project districts to enable beekeepers to process and market their products as collectives.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code

TCP/LES/3502

Project Title

Enhancing National Capacity for the Sustainable Production of Honey and Other Hive Products

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