

Impact of Apiculture Intervention in Erode District

Housing of bees in a container is called "beekeeping", the term is describing all the techniques involving bees and the harvesting and processing of their products. Beekeeping is a long-standing practice in the rural communities of India and appears as ancient history of the country. Honey Bees play a crucial role in pollination. Honey productions from conventional honeybees are very low with an average of 5-6 kg per hive per year. But there was a potential to increase the production upto 15 kg/hive in an year.

Bees have been declining at an alarming rate in recent years. The reasons for the decline in bee numbers are complex, and not yet fully understood. Keeping this view in mind, our MYRADA KVK promoted bee keeping as one of the subsidiary and income generating activity among the farming community in Erode District. As part of training programme, kendra is regularly conducting bee keeping as one of the major event.

Details of trainings conducted in 2015&2016

Sl.No	Duration of training	No. of training conducted	No.of farmers participated
1.	One day training	18	796
2.	Three days training	7	210

With these training programmes, 16 villages in plain area and 3 villages in hilly areas are covered in Erode District

Scaling up of bee keeping through institutional linkages

Apart from our Kendra, TamilNadu Agricultural University, NABARD, Department of Horticulture and Fullerton India limited are the major stakeholders in the promotion of bee keeping in Erode District. The role of stakeholders is expertise in disseminating technologies like imparting skill and knowledge on bee keeping activities and financially supported for starting up the programme in sustainable manner.

Kendra supported to establish bee keeping unit along with accessories (bee boxes along with colonies, face mask, smoker and honey extractor) to IFS farmers and other farmers as part of KVKs technical programmes in 5 blocks (Talavadi, Gobi, TN Palayam, Perundurai, Erode) of Erode District. In the year 2015 – 17 kendra could extend support in establishing 925 bee colonies with the support of different agencies.

Sl.No	Institutional linkage	No. of units
1.	ICAR –KVK (MYRADA)	8
2.	TNAU – AICRP on Bee Keeping	60
3.	Fullerton India Limited	210
4.	Department of Horticulture	300
5.	KVK trained entrepreneur	335
6.	NABARD	12
Total		925

Maintenance and harvest:

Kendra promoted Krishi Mitras play a major role in monitoring the bee boxes established in the farmers field. With their technical guidance and follow up, all the 925 established units are well maintained and harvested honey on regular basis. Based on their maintenance, on an average of 9 kg honey harvested

from each unit in an year with the maximum yield of 18 kg to the minimum yield of 6 kg per units. A total of 8325 kg honey harvested from the established units.

Benefits:

- The additional income Rs. 3600 / farmer earned directly from the bee keeping unit
- Increased the fruiting yield up to 20 per cent in coconut orchard
- Increased the yield of fruit crops up to 15 per cent

Value addition and marketing through institutional approach

The trained participants exposed with Farmers Producer Company Ltd (FPCL) promoted by MYRADAKVK in their localities. The participants joined as a shareholder in the FPCL and marketed their products through the outlet developed by CMRCs (Community managed resource Centre) and FPCL. The adjacent and nearby farmers joined together and formed a joint liability groups to add value their products. The following are the value added products in honey

- Pure Honey
- Honey Dipped Amla
- Fruits and nuts dipped with Honey
- Honey Jaggery; Honey Halwa; Honey Jelly

The honey products being sold in the market outlet, exhibitions and direct sales in the brand name of “*Manjari and Mathuram*” with the attractive packages

Recognitions:

- TNAU has identified, kendra developed master trainers as a resource person for Bee keeping and value addition in honey based products.
- Solar honey wax separator developed by our farm innovators got *Young Scientist* award and *Mahindra Samridhhi award* for the year 2016 with the cash prize of Rs. 2.11 lakh



Skill Training to the farmers



Successful farmer with harvested honey



Documentation of successful bee keeper -
Doordarshan



Farm innovator received Mahindra
Samridhhi Award
