

BEEKEEPING REPORT FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

The report outlines the activities done in January and February, and the short-term goals, which are on going.

1. Top Bar Hive distribution

The Bar hives made in Mwasemphangwe were distributed In February just in time for bee swarming season which started End-Of-February. More hives were distributed in *Chamakali* area, which is near to the corridor area with dense vegetation near Lukusuzi National Park. The corridor area is where most villages which were there were reallocated from it .

Top Bar Hive Distribution At Mwasemphangwe

CHIEFDOM	VAG	GROUP	HIVES GIVEN	SWARM BOXES	VEILS
Mwasemphangwe	Chamakali	4	40	3	4
	Chamakali	1	11	1	1
	Nkhanyu	1	8		2
	Mbuluzi	2	15	1	2
	Central	2	21	3	2
Chikomani	Central	5	50	4	5
Research Apiary			10	1	
TOTAL			155	12	16

2. Establishing a Research Apiary

I have allocated 10 top bar hives for the *research apiary* which is near FTC in Lundazi. The purpose of the research apiary:

- To conduct research on bees and experiment on the bees
- To improve the knowledge of bee behaviour and its management
- To be used for testing new designs, innovations on beehives and bees before disseminating information in the field
- For practical training of farmers in Lundazi

3. Increasing occupation of hives

Baiting of hives has started in readiness for occupation and it is too early to give figures of occupied hives because the swarming season has just started.

It is going alongside the procurement of wax, which at the moment the money is available and has been distributed, to all depots.

4. Progress on the making of honey pressers

Two (2) honey pressers have been made and are at CTC. One will go to Masumba CTC and another Luangwa Feira. One for either Mwasemphangwe or Chama is not yet complete.

5. GPS for apiaries in Magodi

The GPS points for Magodi apiaries have been collected and a map drawn. The goal now is to get all the points for Lukusuzi.

6. Trainings conducted

AREA	Participants	Remarks
Mwasemphangwe	5	Trainers
Chikomani	5	Trainers
Lundazi	21	Transformed hunters
	31	

More training are to be conducted in the all areas as we continue the baiting of hives.

7. Bee Calendar/ Manual, and Honey Projections

I have compiled a Bee Calendar. This will guide the farmers on the management of bees annually. They now understand the cycle of honey bee management i.e what bees do in January or February and what should be their duties.

The draft manual has been prepared and distributed. The final one will be ready after adding Maps and pictures for some apiaries, and usually every picture on what happens each bee season.

Honey projections have already been made and the honey season is expected to start by 1st April 2006. Eight drums, 24 buckets, 50m cotton cloth, 15m-mesh wire, and K5 million for purchasing of comb honey have been requested from Lusaka. They must be ready by 1st April. The honey season may start late due to the delay in the flowering of trees mostly by the end of April in the valleys.

The projected honey output is 17 tonnes if all the hives are occupied. We have 3393 log hives and more than 563 bar hives. But the actual output would be 8 tonnes because most of the hives will be occupied for the first time and we must be lucky if we can harvest something from them or else we can disturb the hives.

8. Future Plans

Increasing Occupation of hives

The challenge for March, April and May is to increase the number of hives occupied in all the areas. This means more baiting of hives, maintenance of hives, establishing bee

routes, strengthening groups by division of labour among themselves in a group. These measures will result in increased apiary management.

Conservation Results

Groups will implement early burning, firebreaks, measures that protect beekeepers and hives/ trees. The groups will have to protect and mark trees with bees so that they become protected trees, as they are often target of honey gatherers.

Other Plans

I will concentrate on team building from trainer, Field supervisors, depot managers, and Extension Officers imparting and sharpening their skills in bee management.

I will put in more veils. There are about 152 groups and currently there are 45 veils in the field. The target is to give each group a veil and it is possible by using empty cement sacks.

I also have to ensure that the money for wax is to use for its intended purpose and all the hives are hanged and baited. Farmers must record dates of occupation.

Conclusion

The end result is to increase honey output for the farmers hence increasing income and food security. The farmers will also protect the flora and fauna in their respective areas hence protecting the ecosystem. The groups are expected to manage their apiaries.

True beekeeping can only take place if there is understanding of bee behaviour and its management techniques learnt. Therefore the research apiary will help in improving or adding more knowledge on bees, which afterwards will be shared with the rest of the groups.

More activities are to be undertaken with emphasis on quality, field operations, strengthening groups including increasing number of radio programs.

Summarised Activities/Equipments where Quality And Diligence Will be Added.

Equipment/ Measures	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Projected 2006
Honey Output	168.5	1442kg		8000kg
Veils	12	50	50	152 increase by 98
Bar hives	164	447	604	804 increase by 200
Log hives		384	3893	8000
Occupied Hives				3800 out of 4497 hives
Smokers	10	10	10	50 increase by 40

Gloves	0	0	0	50
Honey pressers	2	2	5	-
Overalls	0	0	0	0
Groups	21	43	152	220 increase by 68
Hive tools	0	0	0	152
Conservation Results				<input type="checkbox"/> Early burning <input type="checkbox"/> Firebreaks <input type="checkbox"/> By-laws protecting beekeepers & hives/ trees <input type="checkbox"/> At least 50 trees with bees marked for protection in each area. <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation awareness

Other Short-term Strategies

- ◆ Numbering, Maintenance & Repainting of hives made 2001/02
- ◆ Purchase of 24 buckets and 8 drums for collection of honey
- ◆ Refurbishing of Honey Room
- ◆ Purchase of comb honey (April/ May/ June) – K5 million needed for 2000kg as an initial start-up
- ◆ Production of at least two circulars on Beekeeping and Beekeeping Picture Manual

Prepared by: Julius Mwale

Beekeeping Officer