



The role of women in beekeeping activities and the contribution of honey production for livelihood improvement in Ethiopia

Tariku Olana Jawo, jawo@ftz.czu.cz

Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague 2021



Introduction

- Ethiopia has the highest number of bee colonies and a surplus of honeybee flora.
- This makes the country the number one honey producer in Africa and ninth in the world.
- Honey production contributes to rural households' income and the economy of the country.

Materials and Methods

- The study was conducted in West Arsi zone, Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia.
- Using a purposive sampling technique, 90 households were included in the study.
- key informant interview, in-depth semi-structured interview, group discussion and observation were used to collect data.

Results

- Three honey production systems (traditional, transitional (Kenya top bar) and Modern (Langstroth)) were practiced in the study area.

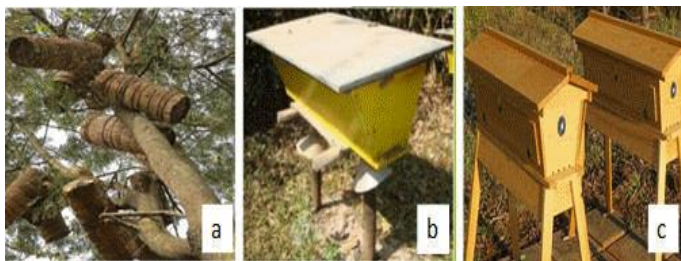


Figure 1: Honey production systems in the study area (a=traditional; b=transitional; c=modern beehives)

Conclusion

- The involvements of women in the study area were promising and women mainly participated in improved honey production systems.
- Technical support and access to a well-organized honey market encourage the local beekeepers to produce more honey and increase income.

Results

- 81.7%, 12.3% and 6.01% depending on traditional, transitional and modern honey production systems, respectively.

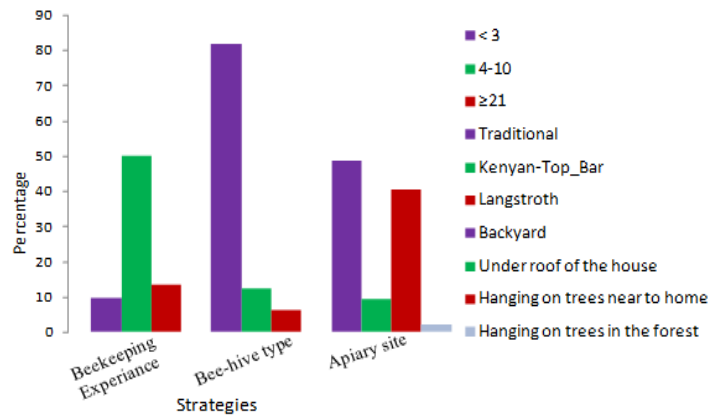


Figure 2: Beekeeping strategies

- The average honey yield/harvest/colony was 6.09 ± 0.35 , 12.7 ± 0.62 and 19.7 ± 0.67 kg for traditional, transitional and modern hives, respectively.
- Honey production contributed on average 6.67% (2500 Ethiopian Birr) of the household's income.

■ Average number of beehives

■ Average honey yield per harvest (kg)

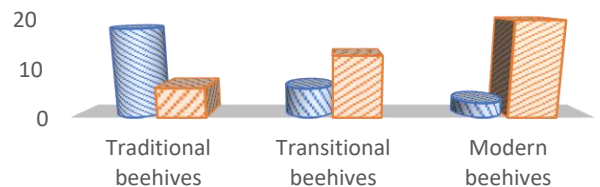


Figure 3: The association between average number of beehives and honey yield

- Women involved in transitional and modern honey production systems, cleaning of the hives with steam and honey marketing.

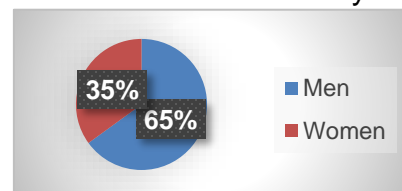


Figure 4: Percentage of men and women involved in honey production