



## Bee products: providing nutrition and generating income - Honeybees, beekeeping and bee products in our daily lives

until 2 September 2015



### How to participate

Send your contribution to  
**[FSN-moderator@fao.org](mailto:FSN-moderator@fao.org)**  
or post it on the  
FSN Forum website  
**[www.fao.org/fsnforum](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum)**



In collaboration with the  
**TECA Beekeeping Exchange  
Group**

Dear Members,

Today we would like to share with you the first comments received for the online discussion “**Bee products: providing nutrition and generating income - Honeybees, beekeeping and bee products in our daily lives**”.

We are being told about innovative hive systems and about the role that bees and their products play in Kenya and Cameroon. Other participants reflect on how bees can cope with changes in the plants they can access and whether some beekeeping practices can negatively affect the nutritional properties of the honey.

You can find short summaries of the comments below. To read them in full click on the links that will lead you to the **discussion page**. Here you will also find the **introduction** and some guiding questions for you to reflect on.

In this discussion we would like to explore the different usage of bee products and their role for food security and nutrition.

We will also attempt to look into the future of beekeeping, exploring how to face challenges that are threatening the survival of many bee colonies around the world. What can we do to create sustainable conditions for agriculture and apiculture to coexist and to benefit from each other?

Please send your comments to **[FSN-moderator@fao.org](mailto:FSN-moderator@fao.org)** or post them online on the **discussion page**. As always, contributions are welcome in English, French and Spanish.

We look forward to keep learning from you!

*Your FSN Forum team*



### Gary Burniske, Purdue University, United States of America

Gary introduces a new technology for bee hive management that has been developed in Australia, which allows to harvest honey without opening the hive and with minimal disturbance to the bees.

**[Read Gary's contribution](#)**



### Eloundou Tsanga Germain Grégoire, Center for Communication and Sustainable Development for All (CECOSDA), Cameroon

Eloundou provides a detailed answer to the guiding questions from a Cameroonian perspective, where honey is basically available year round. For example he informs us that in this country honey is often used for medical purposes. Very interestingly he also provides an overview and an outlook on how apiculture in Cameroon will look like in the future and on what is being done to strengthen the sector.

**[Read Eloundou's contribution](#)** (in French)



### Josephat Mulindo, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Kenya

Josephat introduces the role of bees as a biological fencing agent as used in Kenya, where the bees are a deterrent to elephants and other wild herbivores.

**[Read Josephat's contribution](#)**



### Michele Baron, Kyrgyzstan

Michele reflects on the impact that the reintroduction after various decades of plants kept stored as seeds in seedbanks can have on bees. Will their digestive systems still be able to process the pollen of such plants?

**[Read Michele's contribution](#)**



### Chime Paden Wangdi, Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan

Chime wonders how the practice of feedings bees with sugar water affects the nutritive quality of the honey produced.

**[Read Chime's contribution](#)**



### Max Blanck, FAO, Italy

Max points to a factsheet on pollination services for crop production published by FAO in 2014.

**[Read Max's comment](#)**