



Beekeeping: A Sustainable Success Story of Mr. Bharat R.

Venkatesh L¹, Manju M J² and Shabinabanu S Nadaf³

College of Forestry, Sirsi - 581 401, Uttara Kannada

Mr. Bharat R., aged 23 is having 1.22 Acres of land in Irase, Siddapur, Uttara Kannada. Agriculture and Bee keeping have proved to be sustainable source of income for their family. Though they don't depend entirely on farming and bee-keeping for their main livelihood, their living standard has improved since they started practicing beekeeping as it gives a sustainable diversified income. Mr. Bharat R., is one among the trainees who attended the training programmes on Apiculture based Agroforestry systems organized by ICAR-KVK, Sirsi under DST project.

As a part of the training programme, he was given two bee colonies with comb. He managed the colonies very well as per scientific norms and was able to divide the colonies to 20 by the honey flow season. He owns around 0.50 acre of land where he cultivates Coconut and Arecanut and he also cultivates vegetable crops around. This training helped him acquire knowledge and skill required to identify the Queen in bee box, hiving of honey bee colonies, division and uniting of bee colonies, management of bee colonies in different seasons, extraction of honey and its processing and

the importance of bee-box. He is able to take proper care of queens whereas earlier he was not even able to locate the queen like many others. He is now not only able to split the colonies as a technique to avoid the swarming but also understand about the timing and concepts like colony strength. With the adoption of innovative practices, he generated a net income of Rs 22,000/- to 25,000/- per month.

As a result of his success, three people from their community also started bee-keeping. He has also encouraged and motivated fellow farmers to adopt scientific beekeeping practices and management. During the current year his total earnings was Rs.2,00,000/- as compared against previous year's Rs. 1,00,000/- (55 to 60 kg honey per season, 3 quintal of Arecanut, and 55000 cuttings of Black pepper). This bee keeping unit serves as a model for aspirant youth who like to integrate bee keeping along with farming and he extends all help to them. Around 15 rural youth from the area has approached the KVK for getting training on bee keeping which is an evidence for the spread of the technology. Many farmers visited his bee keeping unit and started their own unit.



Corresponding Author's Email: venkateshl@uasd.in

1Assistant Professor & PI, 2Professor & Co-PI and 3Project Associate

DST Project ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Uttara Kannada, Sirsi – 581 401

