

Report – Honey Quality Assurance Workshop on Friday, June 7, 2019 at the EP Farmes, Akoefe - Ho

Project Details

Project name	Empowering rural Honey producers with skills on how to produce honey within global standards
Reporting period	7th June 2019 – 30th June 2019
Report compiled by	Dr. Courage Besah – Adanu
Date submitted	9th July 2019



1. Project Summary

- 1) The main results of the Honey Quality Training Workshop are that:

The Workshop on honey quality was successfully organized at the EP Farms, Akoefe – Ho on the 7th of June 2019. Also. The training workshop brought together beekeepers from four communities in the Volta Region namely; Tsito, Adaklu, Akatsi and Kajebi and some members of the National Beekeepers Association in Ghana. One woman and 23 men attended the workshop made up of the beekeepers, consumers, consultants, AGRIVIMS Team and the Dan-G Alumni.

- 2) During the day of the workshop, some of the challenges were that:

Most of the Dan-G Alumni executives were very engaged at the time of the training and so only the president and his Wife could join the team at the training grounds. This was in spite of all the efforts put in place by the project team to get Dan-G members to take part in the workshop through the site attractions we planned to visit after the main training. Another factor accounting for this could also be due to the heavy rains on the very day of the event and the distance one has to travel from Accra to the Volta Region within the circumstances, as many of the alumni members were in Accra and Ashanti Region.

Also, members of the Embassy in Ghana were not able to take part in the project due to equally important event they had to attend at the time. We are however, planning a post event visit to the embassy for debriefing discussions on the project and possible way forward

- 3) The distance and weather therefore caused some deviations in the execution of the workshop on the day of the event as it delayed the program a little bit but eventually, took place and closed a little bit late.

2. Activities & Outputs

Name	Honey Quality Assurance Training Workshop
Status	Achieved
Objective	To train rural Honey producers with skills on how to produce honey within global standards, market their products and improve their livelihoods
Activity dates	<i>Actual:</i> 7th June 2019
Progress	The training workshop was successful and completed.

- The trainer took the Participants through the Honey Production systems and how each activity finally affected the quality of honey in relation to acceptability by standard authorities as well as consumers both in Ghana and Abroad.
- Also, participants were educated and taken through Global Honey Standards and the Case of Ghana Honeys, where, the status of honey samples collected from the honey producers invited for the workshop during the main consultants PhD work, in terms of quality analysis within global standards was projected for all members. During this time, each of the global honey standard parameters which were water (moisture) content, Hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF), pH, diastase activity, free acidity and electrical conductivity and their significance for quality assurance, were explained to beekeepers.
- Honey Quality and Health Benefits were discussed and experimented where the consultant adulterated some honey samples with sugar syrup he bought from the shopping malls. These adulterated samples were placed in two disposable plates labelled B and C. Sample A was pure honey and sample D was sugar syrup. Beekeepers were asked to do sensory analysis of the honey samples and give their opinion on which of the samples they felt were genuine and other wise. It was very interesting as the various views indicated the difficulty in the ability to immediately taste an adulterated honey on the go. This practicals gave more understanding to

these experienced beekeepers that trust was key in the trading of honey as one cannot on the surface see if honey is adulterated or not unless tests in the laboratory.

- Current Challenges in the Honey Production Sector and Solution Proposals were discussed. Key among them were modern technologies in the honey sector, lack of good markets, processing and packaging challenges as well as lack of policy and policy direction for the sector.
- Honey Production as a Business was the other great dimension during the workshop. During this session, participants were taking through a reorientation process in order to change their passive way of doing things in the sector and rather focus on developing themselves and the sector as a viable business venture as individuals and as a group of beekeepers. The advantages of belonging to a group as opposed to being an individual in terms of production and marketing of hive products.

3. Various challenges were encountered during the workshop. Low turnout by alumni members has informed the local alumni team to take a second look at the best ways to encourage local alumni members in future for programs outside the capital. The main challenge was the inability of alumni members to journey from Accra to Ho for the program. There was also the issue of heavy rains on the day of the program and our inability to get other source of funding to support the project team as this could have enabled the team to go stay at Ho a day before the program day. An additional funding could have perhaps provided a partial support to transport for alumni members from Accra to Ho if not full support.

4. The program however enjoyed the patronage of key stakeholders and Stakeholders in the sector. Among them were the chairman of the Ghana Beekeepers Association (GBA), a member from the Forestry Commission of Ghana and a member from the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) and finally a representative of the Volta Regional Association of Beekeepers (VORAB). These representatives graced the program making it a success.

5- Other comments

Participants for this workshop were so excited and are grateful for the sponsors and the team of alumni who came to take them through the training. The chairman of the GBA could not hide his excitement and suggested if we could replicate this training across the regions of the country. With this awakening, we hope to follow up on this training for beekeepers in later days through a more thorough project and funding to assure a huge impact for the honey industry.

Date: 07/07/2019	Signature AGRIVIMS