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Pursuing Excellence

CONSTRAINTS TO HONEY PRODUCTION IN ARAPAI SUB-COUNTY SOROTI DISTRICT



BY


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**A RESEARCH DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND
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DECLARATION

I **KIMBUGWE GODFREY**, hereby declare that this dissertation is out of my original concept and has never been submitted to any University or institute of higher learning for any academic qualification.

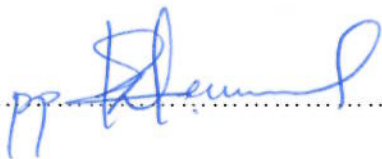
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DEDICATION

I dedicate this piece of work to my parents, for their sacrifices and commitment to keep me in school till this far and their parental guidance accorded to me will ever remain a memorable contribution to my life.

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I take this opportunity to utter my gratitude to the Almighty God for the gift of life all through.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

MT	Metric Tones
EU	European Union
USA	United States of America
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
UNDP	United Nations development program me
UEPB	Uganda Export Promotion Board
NRMP	National Residue Monitoring Plan
THR	Teso Honey Refinery
TUNADO	The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization
SOCCADIDO	Soroti Catholic Diocese Development Organization
ITC	International Trade Center
BBW	Banana Bacterial Wilt
Pa	per annum
UBOS	Uganda Beaural Of Statistics
AFB	American Foul Brood
EFB	European Foul Brood

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in Arapai Sub County Soroti district to find out the constraints to honey production. The objective was to determine the constraints to honey production. Therefore, 80 respondents were randomly selected and interviewed using a questionnaire which was pretested before the commencement of data collection. The data collected was analyzed using statistical package of social scientists (SPSS version 16) to find the frequencies and percentages which are presented using tables, graphs and pie charts.

The study revealed that 80% of the respondents were married and this provided the family labor. More than 60% had attained at least a secondary level of education. 76.2% kept the bees for home consumption and generation of income and the majority (62.5%) used traditional bee hives made out of tree logs. The study reveals that majority of the farmers in the study area (87.5%) have less than 10 bee hives on average. Most farmers experiences disease outbreaks (American fowl brood) and pests Varroa mites and ants. It was also noted that majority of the bee farmers (95%) don't have harvesting equipments such as smoker, gears etc, which reduced the quality of the honey.

In conclusion therefore, the main constraints to honey production are; lack of experience, poor bee hives management, pests and diseases, lack of capital to buy modern bee hives, lack of equipments for harvesting and processing honey, etc. From the results, it can be recommended that; the farmers should establish a close linkages with the various service providers who provide services such as training, equipments such as smokers, gears etc and marketing information and linkages.

Beekeepers should also form associations and organized into cooperative societies at the local, and regional and national levels. This will enable them to access services e.g. training and extension services and enhance collective marketing through which they can negotiate for better prices.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background

Apiculture (bee-keeping) is the deliberate rearing of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) for honey production of honey and other products. Apiculture is one of the fastest growing sectors worldwide. A number of countries have made strategic moves towards the development of this industry. Recent developments show a shift from keeping bees as a hobby to one of a serious Business enterprise. In Northern Ireland, for example, mostly old and retired men practiced beekeeping. To-date Ireland produces one of the best honeys in the world. (UEPB.2005)

According to UBOS, (2008) the estimated total production of honey in Uganda in the six months prior to the census was 1.3 million kilogrammes. This translates to an estimated total of 2600 metric tones of honey per annum. In terms of region; Northern region had the highest production of honey estimated to be 0.64 million kilogrammes; while Central region had the least production of honey estimated to be 0.085 million kilogrammes. In terms of district; the districts with the highest production of honey in Uganda in terms of kilogrammes were: Yumbe (129,950), Nakapiripirit (87,920), Pader (81,320), Moroto (70,560), Amuru (57,080), Oyam (47,840), Nyadri (43,950), Nebbi (42,620), Apac (40,590), and Lira (40,480), Uganda has a very high potential for honey production. However, it has not been fully exploited in Teso region and areas of West Nile. (Prof. Moustafa.2004).

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (2008); about 1.2 million beekeepers are active, with 700,000 beehives colonized countrywide. Many of the beekeepers lack the necessary skills for effective production of honey and do not have resources to acquire better equipment. In spite of this, sizeable quantities of honey are produced in the districts of Bushenyi, Soroti, Gulu, Nakasongola, Kabarole and the West Nile region (James, 2008)

Beekeeping offers a safety net for the poor against poverty, and can generate income. Beekeeping is a low risk, sustainable, household-level enterprise. The opportunity to earn more from beekeeping is growing as the demand for honey in the towns of Uganda outstrips supply. The challenge is to transform subsistence beekeeping to business apiary value chain, and it is clear that this effective demand is the key driver to this process (TUNADO.2010).

Beekeeping is one way of improving the cash income to farmers, provide additional food, provide employment, pollinate crops as they produce honey, beeswax and other hive products which can bring foreign currency into the country (Kerealem E. et al;2009)

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