

Beekeeping in tropical Africa

Beekeeping in Africa is different from beekeeping in other parts of the world. The honeybees are highly self-regulating and need an approach which follows the seasons optimally. Beekeeping with logs, calabashes and bark hives has disappeared in some areas but still is the main source of honey.



Seasonal management

Integration of existing with new methods leads to better understanding of beekeeping and is more economic. The old hives still produce or have a function in the apiary while gradually some new hives are added. The focus is on the bees more than on the hives. With any hive good honey can be produced. Seasonal management means doing the right thing at the best time or the best thing at the right time in beekeeping.

Honey and Wax

There is nothing wrong with honey from traditional equipment. For extraction this does not make a difference, harvesting methods can be simple but good. Taking care is the main issue. The highest quality of honey, with a moisture content lower than 18%, is harvested from the most simple hives. Wax is extracted separately from honey, or is not extracted in comb honey.

Pollination

Honeybees and other bees like stingless bees cross-pollinate flowers. This leads to increased fruit and seed production. The effect of pollination has a higher value both per hive and per hectare than honey.

Pollen analysis

Pollen appears in small quantities in honey through which the botanical source of the honey can be determined. The vegetation or geographical area from which the honey originates can be determined as well as through microscopic identification of the plant species present. This is important for labeling, particularly for monofloral honeys which are made of mainly one nectar source.

Apitherapy

Bee products can be consumed fresh, dried or otherwise preserved. *Honey, pollen, bee bread, royal jelly* and brood are all consumed and eaten locally. *Beeswax, propolis and bee venom* can also be consumed. They are manufactured into special health food, food supplements and skin care products. These value-added products are also called apitherapy products, after the scientific name of the honeybee *Apis*.

Marieke Mutsaers

Marieke has been active in African beekeeping since the nineteen eighties. She operated and set up many apiaries, living in Nigeria. Her approach is to be a fellow beekeeper rather than a manager to the beekeepers. Through this approach she improves on traditional methods and then trains on better methods with intermediate equipment.



marieke.mutsaers@planet.nl
www.trichilia.nl

Services

- **TROPICAL BEEKEEPING**
Seasonal development of colonies, honey harvesting and extraction, harvesting of wax and other hive produce
- **POLLINATION OF CROPS**
- **HIVE PRODUCE FOR HEALTH**
Honey, pollen, bee bread, bee brood, royal jelly, propolis, bee venom and beeswax in food supplements and skin care products
- **HONEY ANALYSIS**
including microscopic analysis of honey and pollen (pollen analysis)
- **MARKETING** of honey and other hive products
- **ROLE OF BEEKEEPING** in forest conservation and good land use
- **MELLIFEROUS FLORA** and honey potential of the vegetation
- **LARGE SCALE BEEKEEPING** or beekeeping with outkeepers
- **LECTURES AND COURSES**



Trichilia ABC

Noordermeerweg 65cd NL 8313 PX Rutten The Netherlands
Tel.: +31 527 262598 Fax: +31 527 262117
marieke.mutsaers@planet.nl www.trichilia.nl

BEEKEEPING



IN TROPICAL AFRICA



Marieke Mutsaers