

CHALLENGES OF BEEKEEPING AND HONEY TRADE
AMONG SMALL HOLDER BEEKEEPERS AND SMALL AND
MEDIUM ENTERPRISERS IN AFRICA

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Abstract

- *This study was conducted to unfold the challenges confronting small holder beekeepers and SMEs in honey trade across Africa. An operation research and descriptive survey was used for the investigation. The population for the study was made up of over two thousand small holder beekeepers and SMEs in honey trade across Africa. The sample for the study comprised of six hundred small holder beekeepers and SMEs in honey trade.*

Abstract Cont.

- *Data on the study was analysed using simple descriptive statistics of frequency, and percentage distribution of subjects responses. The results and findings obtained from this study unfolded enormous challenges confronting the focus group. In conclusion, practical solutions were proffered to alleviate those challenges and promote operations and performances among the focus group, so that this sector can contribute its quota to socio-economic growth and sustainable development of Africa nations.*

Introduction

- Historical facts and available records indicates that scientific beekeeping and honey trade among Small and Medium Enterprisers (SMEs) in Africa have been going on for over three decades. Some of African nations which have some records of bee-keeping and honey trade include: Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroun, Tanzania, Guinea, Zambia, Kenya, Zimbabwe and south Africa among several others(Bee-keeping and Development, 1994; 1996).

Introduction Cont.

- In most of the African countries listed above, scientific beekeeping and honey trade thrives mainly among Small holders and SMEs. This implies that large scale and commercial beekeeping and honey trade are still not common in Africa. However many national and international organizations and institutions are involved in research, creating awareness and sensitization of farmers and stakeholders in this sector across Africa.

Introduction Cont.

- Some of the organizations and the institutions that have impacted positively on scientific beekeeping and honey trade across Africa include: The world Bank, DFID, CBDD, UNDP, IITA, EU-MPP6,CEBRAD,Nigeria Apiculture platform (NAP), Universities of Ilorin, Abuja Umudike and Lautech Ogbomosho all in Nigeria (Ojeleye, 2018). Many professional bodies and associations across Africa have also had their input in the development of bee-keeping and honey trade among Small holders and Small and Medium Enterprisers (SMEs).

Introduction Cont.

- Among these are: Ghana Beekeeperers' Association (GBA), Arusha Bee-keeperers' Association (ABA) Tanzania, ICRAF Training programme, Kenya, Federation of bee-keepers Association of Nigeria (FEBKAN), Beekeepers' Association of Nigeria (BAN) (FEBKAN, 2015; NAP,2016).

Statement of the Problem

- Even though scientific bee-keeping and honey trade have been going on for over three decades among Small holders and Small and Medium Enterprisers in Africa, the challenges of bee-keeping and honey trade among the focus groups above are still enormous and practical solutions are needed to alleviate these challenges and promote the beekeeping and honey trade for sustainable growth and development in Africa.

Methods and Materials

- An **operation research and descriptive survey** was used for the study, while the **population** for the study comprised of all small holder beekeepers and SMEs in honey trade across Africa (over two thousand by estimation). Six hundred small holder beekeepers and SMEs in honey trade were selected as **samples**. Random purposive (incidental) **sampling technique** was used. **Three instruments** were used for data collection; observations from beekeeping demonstration farms, a self structured questionnaire and review of articles from journals and magazines on beekeeping and honey trade in Africa.

Methods and Materials cont.

- The opinion of some subjects (respondents) on their challenges were also obtained through discussions and interviews. Frequency and percentage distribution of subjects responses were used for **data analysis**. Some research questions and hypotheses were generated to guide the investigation.

Research Questions

- 1. What are the major challenges of beekeeping & honey trade among small holder beekeepers & SMEs in Africa ?
- 2. Would incessant attacks & vandalization of apiary be a major challenge of beekeeping & honey trade among small holder beekeepers & SMEs in Africa ?
- 3. Would availability of fund for initial take-off and expansion be a major challenge of beekeeping & honey trade among small holder beekeepers & SMEs in AFRICA ?

Research Questions cont.

- 4. Would inadequate support & motivation by government be a major challenge of beekeeping & honey trade among small holder beekeepers & SMEs in Africa ?
- 5. Would accessibility to modern scientific beekeeping equipment & facilities be a major challenge of beekeeping & honey trade among small holder beekeepers & SMEs in Africa ?

Research Hypotheses

- **Incessant attacks & vandalization** of apiary would not be a **major challenge of beekeeping & honey trade** among small holder beekeepers & SMEs in Africa ?
- **Availability of fund for initial take-off and expansion** would not be a **major challenge of beekeeping & honey trade** among small holder beekeepers & SMEs in Africa.
- **Inadequate support & motivation by government** would not be a **major challenge of beekeeping & honey trade** among small holder beekeepers & SMEs in Africa.
- **Accessibility to modern scientific beekeeping equipment & facilities** would not be a **major challenge of beekeeping & honey trade** among small holder beekeepers & SMEs in Africa.

Table 1: Frequency & percentage distribution of respondents to **hypothesis 1:** Incessant attack & vandalization of apiary would not be a major challenge.

	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	175	29.16%
Disagree	425	70.83%
Total	600	100

Table 2: Frequency & percentage distribution of respondents to **hypothesis 2:** Availability of fund for initial take-off & expansion would not be a major challenge.

	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	200	33.33%
Diagree	400	66.67%
Total	600	100

Table 3: Frequency & percentage distribution of respondents to **hypothesis 3:** Inadequate support & motivation by government would not be a major challenge.

	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	100	16.70%
Disagree	500	83.30%
Total	600	100

Table 4: Frequency & percentage distribution of respondents to **hypothesis 4:** Accessibility to modern scientific beekeeping equipment & facilities.

	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	150	25%
Diagree	450	75%
Total	600	100

Results and Conclusion

- The results and findings obtained from data analysis on this study reveals that :
- Many small holders and SMEs in beekeeping across Africa are **confronted with incessant attacks and vandalization of apiary by herdsman and other honey thieves.**
- Potential small holders and SMEs in beekeeping & honey trade across Africa find it difficult to have **access to initial take-off capital** while existing ones also **find it difficult to expand due to lack of fund.**

Results and Conclusion cont.

- Many small holders and SMEs in this sector have **no access to modern scientific beekeeping & honey trade equipment and facilities** such as motorised honey press, uncapping knife and fork, honey grading equipment e.t.c
- Many small holders and SMEs in this sector still **depend on seasonal colonization of hives because they lack basic knowledge & skills in queen rearing techniques.**

Results and Conclusion cont.

- Apart from honey, local market demand for other produce of beekeeping like beeswax, propolis, apitoxin, royal jelly is still low across Africa.
- Many small holders and SMEs in this sector are not yet equipped with facilities and technology for production of apitoxin, royal jelly which are also very important produce of beekeeping.
- There is **inadequate publicity & sensitization** at grassroot level for small holders and SMEs **to join existing national trade associations and co-operative unions.**

Results and Conclusion cont.

- **Awareness and utility of ICT facilities** by small holders and SMEs in this sector **to enhance their operations is still low**
- **Government support and motivation** for small holders and SMEs is **inadequate at all levels of governance.**
- Many small holders and SMEs in this sector **have inadequate knowledge & skills in preparing simple feasibility studies** and therefore either **under-utilize or don't even utilize feasibility studies to enhance their operations.**

Results and Conclusion cont.

- There is **no uniform or standard market price for honey and other produce of beekeeping.**
- Because of gross **inadequate supply to demand ratio**, many small holders and SMEs in this sector are highly tempted to **resort to marketing of adulterated honey.**
- Some small holders and SMEs in this sector **still process and handle honey unhygenically.**

Results And Conclusion Cont.

- Many small holders & SMEs in this sector are forced back on their knees by **government policies** as soon as they attempt to rise. Some examples of **government policies** which have **no waiver for small holders & SMEs in Nigeria** are those emanating from **Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON), National Agency For Foods & Drugs Administrations Control (NAFDAC), Tax Offices etc.**

Conclusion

- From the results and findings obtained on this study, it could be concluded objectively that **the challenges confronting bee-keeping and honey trade** among small holders and SMEs in Africa **are enormous**, so much still need to be done in this area to alleviate these challenges and promote operations and performances among this focal group so that **this sector can contribute its quota to socio-economic growth and sustainable development of Africa nations**

Recommendations

- All small holders and SMEs in this sector should endeavour to **acquire knowledge and skills in Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** and utilize these facilities to **enhance their operations**
- All small holders and SMEs in this sector **should acquire rudimentary knowledge and skills in feasibility studies** through self-help and **utilize this to enhance their operations.**

Recommendations cont.

- **Scientific beekeeping and related courses** should be formally **included in school curriculum at all levels** and made a **priority in all socio-economic and entrepreneurship programmes** across Africa.
- **All political leaders, political office holders, government and security agencies across Africa** should be more committed and proactive in their responsibilities in protecting lives and properties of all citizens so that socio-economic activities, especially in the agricultural sector could go on unhindered and uninterrupted.

Recommendations Cont.

- **All insincere political propaganda on public financial allocations and purported releases to the agricultural sector which does not get to the end users (grassroot farmers) should be checked with the assistance of civil right organizations and other stakeholders in good governance.**

Recommendations cont.

- **Government at all levels and the organized private sector** are called upon **to motivate and support** small holders and SMEs in beekeeping & honey trade **through partnership and funding of research and operations.**
- **Local and foreign investors** are called upon **to exploit this virgin and fertile area through importation of relevant beekeeping equipment and partnership with stakeholders in the apicultural sector in Africa.**