

Entrepreneurship in Apiculture

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Q. What is apiculture entrepreneurship?

Hints: Beekeeping (Apiculture) is an economically viable technology of agricultural diversification. It has prime significance for human health care and nutrition. Beekeeping needs less space with low investment but fetches quick return and generates employment opportunity. It can be done in homestead areas.

Q. What is the scope of apiculture?

Hints: Scope of beekeeping for pollination in India: Total area of bee dependent crops in India is around 50 million hectare. One hundred and fifty million colonies are needed to meet this, at the rate of 3 colonies per hectare. In India at present, there are only 1.2 million colonies exist.

Q. What are the important features required for a successful apiculture industry?

Hints: (i) Knowledge of the nature and habits of bees. (ii) Selection of a suitable location for keeping the beehives. (iii) Management of beehives during different seasons. (iv) Cross hybridisation among the selected parents.

Q. State the recent effort by Government of India on bee keeping. Q. What initiative should be taken to promote beekeeping in India? Q. What is the present status of apiculture in India?

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister set up a Beekeeping Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Bibek Debroy. The Beekeeping Development Committee (BDC) has released its report today (26th June, 2019) India's recent efforts to improve the state of beekeeping have helped increase the volume of honey exports from 29.6 to 51.5 thousand tones between 2014-15 and 2017-18 (as per data from National Bee Board and Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare). However, challenges persist and a lot more can be done to enhance the scope and scale of beekeeping. Some of the recommendations in the report include,

- (i) Recognizing honeybees as inputs to agriculture and considering landless Beekeepers as farmers.
- (ii) Plantation of bee friendly flora at appropriate places and engaging women self-help groups in managing such plantations.
- (iii) Institutionalizing the National Bee Board and rechristening it as the Honey and Pollinators Board of India under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Such a body would engage in advancing beekeeping through multiple mechanisms such as setting up of new Integrated Bee Development Centers, strengthening the existing ones, creating a honey price stabilization fund and collection of data on important aspects of apiculture....(For further information follow contact zone
- (iv) Recognition of apiculture as a subject for advanced research under the aegis of Indian Council for Agricultural Research.
- (v) Training and development of beekeepers by state governments.
- (vi) Development of national and regional infrastructure for storage, processing and marketing of honey and other bee products.
- (vii) Simplifying procedures and specifying clear standards for ease of exporting honey and other bee products.

Q. What is the scope of Apiculture?

The scope of Apiculture is vast and includes diversification beyond honey production. It encompasses the production and marketing of other bee products like pollen, propolis, royal jelly, bee's wax, and bee venom. Additionally, there is significant potential in the sale of bee packages and the rearing and sale of pedigree queen bees. An apiary unit of 100 colonies under a diversification plan can earn a profit of approximately Rs. 3,19,500 per year. The increasing demand for honey bees for crop pollination further enhances the scope of Apiculture, making it a lucrative profession for generating employment and providing a good livelihood.

Q.What is the importance of beekeeping in India?

Beekeeping in India is important for several reasons:

It generates employment and provides a supplementary income to a large rural population, including agriculturists and horticulturists.

It supports agricultural productivity by enhancing crop yields both quantitatively and qualitatively through pollination.

Beekeeping can aid in the conservation of biodiversity and support the sustainability of ecosystems.

It has the potential for export, contributing to the economy.

The rich flora available in rural areas makes India an ideal location for developing beekeeping as a subsidiary occupation.

Q.What is the present status of Apiculture in India?

Apiculture in India is diverse and region-specific. Two main species, *A. cerana* and *A. mellifera*, are extensively used for beekeeping. *A. mellifera* has been established in many parts of the country, including Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Kerala, due to its high yield. *A. cerana* is found in regions like Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. Additionally, in tribal areas and some states, wild honey production is practiced with species like *A. dorsata* and *A. florea*. The stingless bee, *Trigona iridipennis* Smith, is also used in Tamil Nadu and Kerala for high-value honey production, although it yields less honey.

Q.Which Indian states are potentially rich with respect to the scope in Apiculture?

Several Indian states are potentially rich in scope for Apiculture due to their favorable conditions and flora.

These states include:

Punjab

Himachal Pradesh

Jammu & Kashmir

Uttaranchal

Uttar Pradesh

West Bengal

Bihar

Jharkhand

Assam

Orissa

Andhra Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh

Rajasthan

Maharashtra

Kerala

Tamil Nadu

Karnataka

Far eastern states

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

These regions have diverse bee species and abundant flora, making them suitable for different types of beekeeping practices.

Q.What role does the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) play in beekeeping research and development in India?

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) plays a significant role in the development and promotion of beekeeping in India. Its contributions include:

Development and Extension: Introducing and developing beekeeping as a source of income for rural and tribal populations.

Research and Development: Conducting research to improve beekeeping practices and productivity.

Training and Education: Providing training programs and educational resources for beekeepers.

Marketing: Assisting in the marketing of bee products to enhance profitability.

Financial Assistance: Offering financial support to beekeepers to help them establish and grow their operations.

KVIC's efforts have helped integrate beekeeping into rural economies, providing supplementary income and supporting agricultural practices through enhanced pollination.