

Abstract

This study was conducted during November 2014 in the Arusha Region, Karatu District, Endabash Division, Tanzania. The case study was carried out in two villages namely; Buger and Kansay, situated 45 kilometers South of Karatu village. Beekeeping activities play a major role in socio-economics of villagers. Tanzania is endowed with favorable environmental conditions for the production of bee products. The country hosts both stinging and stingless honeybees that produce high quality products. As a result, Tanzania can produce and brand different types of honey, which fetch high prices in the world market. Data was collected using semi-structured questionnaires, interviews with local beekeepers and non-beekeepers, observations, and focus group discussions. Demographic characteristics of local beekeepers, beekeeping techniques, and the market of bee products were collected and analyzed. The results show that current production is not meeting demands of the domestic or international markets. The limiting factors include, honey being the sole product harvested and sold, lack of engagement from women and youth due to traditional beliefs, and limited access to modern equipment. To promote the beekeeping industry in Karatu District, the study recommends increasing the use of modern hives (top-bar and commercial) by building them locally and providing education opportunities.

Keywords: Beekeeping; Tanzania; bee products; honeybees; marketing; Buger and Kansay