

# Entrepreneurship in Apiculture

## **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 (26<sup>th</sup> 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? Q.What is the importance of beekeeping in India? Q.What is the present status of Apiculture in India? Q.Which of these is potentially rich Indian states with respect to scope in Apiculture?**

There is vast potential and scope from diversification in apiculture i.e. besides honey; it offers scope for production and marketing of other bee products like pollen, propolis, royal jelly, bee's wax and bee venom. Besides, sale of bee packages and rearing and sale of pedigree queen bees offers a tremendous scope. According to a recent estimate, based on the current price status of inputs, an apiary unit of 100 colonies put under diversification plan can earn a profit of Rs. 3,19,50 per year. Demand of honey bees for crop pollination is also increasing in some parts of the country. This profession offers a great scope in generating employment besides a good livelihood. Apart from direct employment to the beekeepers, there would be need for good artisans, hive manufactures, apicultural equipment and machinery manufactures, transport system for