



# API News

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Issue VIII

A publication of The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization (TUNADO)

A Membership & Apex Body for  
Coordinating Apiculture Sector in Uganda



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(TUNADO).



Bees for Development

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COVER PICTURE: Beekeepers from Nakasongola displaying at the Honey Week Exhibition.

## Content

1. Chairman's message
2. ED's message
3. The 4th National Honey week motivates youth and women to start apiculture enterprises
4. Beekeeping for Women and Youth Employment
5. Knowing When to Harvest Honey
6. How to Succeed with Bait Hives
6. Api- price watch
6. Beekeeping as a Business Venture
8. Would you like to avoid Crop Raids by Elephants: Keep Bees
9. Honey and Beauty
9. Kitchen Style with Honey: Get the best results from your employees

## Editorial Message

Dear friends, welcome to the 8th Edition of the API-News letter where we continue to provide key information regarding Apiculture sector and how development in the sector can be hastened. We bring you news on what transpired during the Honey Week Event 2013 and how the youth from Ntungamo has been inspired to take beekeeping from a hobby to a business. Also find testimonies on beekeeping employment under the Great Lakes project implemented in Kabale and Kisoro. Did you know that bees can help protect your farm from elephant raids? You can read about this inside just a one more advantage of bees. Still in the issue beekeepers from various regions give information on the environment cues that guide in honey harvesting. Also find another challenge and share with us how to succeed bait hives. Product certification improves competitiveness in the market, UNBS official advises on how to acquire certification for honey and other hive products. In the kitchen style column we bring how honey can improve productivity and the reason it should be part of your office kitchen. Do not miss to check out the Api-price watch, showing the current prices of honey processing equipment. Thank you all for the continued contribution of information and articles towards the newsletter.

Your views and comments are welcome. If you wish to contribute articles and/or advertise please contact the editor;

**Mable Charity N. +256414258070**  
**info@tunadobeas.org**

# Chairman's Message

Dear Friends  
Welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Api-Newsletter. Thank you for investing part of your time to go through this edition as you have done in the past. Your decision is a wise one in that you continue to learn more about one of nature's wonderful animal (MAAIF) the bee. By Statutory Instrument the bee is declared as an animal. It is a very useful animal in that it pollinates our agricultural and forest crops, provides us with nutritious food-honey, its products are a source of income for many people, it conserves our eco-system and it has an industry which has great employment opportunities for the youth, women and active poor. In the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of this newsletter we informed you of the National Honey week 2013 which is organized annually by The Uganda National Apiculture Development

Organization. This is one event which is a must attend for all actors in the honey value chain as it provides one with an opportunity to learn, network, share information and make business deals. This year's national honey week 2013 was a great success. It saw actors all over the country showcasing their products and services to the general public. It was graced by the Director of Animal Resources Dr Kauta Nicholas at the opening ceremony at the Government Media Centre and by Minister of State for Animal Industry Hon. Rwamirama K. Bright at the opening of the exhibition at Lugogo Forest Mall. Then the closing ceremony was graced by the Minister of State for Industry and Technology Hon. Dr James S Mutende, Country Representative of FAO Alhaji M. Jallow. Also present at the Honey Week exhibition were different development partners; Mr. Martin Jones - Bees for

Development, Mr. Samson Akakinza - Environmental Alert, Ms Tania Haidara - Country Manager Swiss Contact Uganda, Ms. Sarah Balaba and Mr. Andrew Kezaala - OXFAM, Mr. Felix Kazahura - SNV, Mr. Ben Butele - Self Help Africa Contact, Patricia Nsiime - FAO, Mr. Januario Ntungwa Trias and Mr. Ochola Simon - ZOA.

The fact that all the above dignitaries attended manifests the importance the honey value chain plays in the development of our economy. I therefore take this opportunity on behalf of TUNADO to thank them for their participation in the event and for their financial, material and technical support they continue to give TUNADO. I also thank the exhibitors and patrons for making the Honey Week 2013 a success.

The Honey Week Report 2013 is available and members can access it through Mable Charity ([info@tunadobees.org](mailto:info@tunadobees.org)) and for those of you who missed the event, do not lose hope but prepare to participate in next year's event. However you can always call at our office on Plot 76 Buganda Road or access our website to learn more about this wonderful creature the Bee. Happy reading.

**Jurua M. Jackson**  
**CHAIRMAN**



*TUNADO Chairman addressing exhibitors at honey week exhibition*

# ED's Message

## Honey Value Chain Development in Comparison With Other Developed Agriculture Value Chain

Since 2007 to-date when I started working in apiculture sub-sector, I have been comparing honey value chain with other developed agriculture value chains such as tea, sugar, dairy, tobacco and coffee, etc. The question that keeps on running in my mind and perhaps to you as a ready is why honey value chain is not developed despite of everybody in the world acknowledging that honey is good for consumption. There is no Organization or Government that is against consumption of honey as it is with tobacco. Just imagine that honey value chain was tobacco my guess is as good as yours.... but I think it would have collapsed.

Looking at the factors behind other value chain development you will realize critical issues that are happening and less happening to apiculture sector. Whereas other value chains have developed because of strong private sector involvement, the same is not happening in the honey value chain. Taking a close look at what is happening in the apiculture sector, both Government and most of the Development Partners in Uganda concentrate on supporting beekeepers with inputs to boost apiculture development. This is opposite to other value chains where effort and support concentrates on the private investor. *It is important to note that the private investor is the one who provides direct market to the farmer/beekeepers and at the same time the private investor interacts directly with the consumer what does this one tell you.* That the private investor has market information, knows what the market requires, what consumers prefer, in terms of quality and quantities at a given time.

In the sugar sub-sector we have about four to five prominent private investor with ability to produce sufficient quantities to meet Ugandan market and even export. The private investors have got their own farms as well as out growers. They do provide

inputs, technical advice, practical training, extend credit facility and provide direct market for their producers/farmers. This kind of practice increases and strengthens relationship and trust between the private investor and the farmer. Do we see this happen in honey value chain or we continue to witness SMEs concentrating in Kampala and waiting to buy honey and pack it to sell.

Drawing attention to the tobacco industry, we all know that the industry has been over criticized of being distractive to the environment, harmful to our health, use of child labour, low prices offered to farmers etc. However, the industry continues to thrive. Have you ever asked yourself why? Probably the answer may be because of

*“The question that we should therefore ask ourselves is whether we should concentrate on mobilizing small holder farmers to directly brand their honey and other hives products and sell to the market or we should organize the market and develop private investors to provide services to beekeepers to produce sufficient and quality honey that meet their market requirements?”*



**Mr. Biryomumaisho Dickson, ED - TUNADO**

strong private sector that has a direct presence and relationship with the farmers assuring them of ready market, credit and inputs. Looking at dairy value chain it is very obvious that the price for one kg of honey is far above 500% to the equivalent of 1 litre of milk but when it comes to the way the industry is organized the reverse is true. Yes we may argue that the Government extends significant support to the sector but on the other hand you will agree with me that the industry has taken advantage of collective marketing. Even in the remotest village, there are collection centre managers who collect the milk and deliver to the nearby dairy on bicycles. Is this happening in the apiculture industry?

The question that we should therefore ask ourselves is whether we should concentrate on mobilizing small holder farmers to directly brand their honey and other hives products and sell to the market or we should organize the market and develop private investors to provide services to beekeepers to produce sufficient and quality honey that meet their market requirements? Should the effort concentrate on providing apiculture inputs to beekeepers or we should concentrate on creating and developing rewarding market that work for poor many beekeepers? Has the apiculture sector embraced collective marketing or we only continue to witness far apart beekeepers with small quantities of honey claiming of no market access and SMEs claiming they cannot get honey from beekeepers?

I am sure the answer is with all of us in the apiculture sector development in Uganda. Our next National Multi-stakeholders platform is in December 2013 and I challenge all of us to come with answers to the above questions. We all must think of innovative ways and approaches that can work to develop the industry?

**Dickson Biryomumaisho**  
**Executive Director**

# The 4<sup>th</sup> National Honey week motivates youth and women to start apiculture enterprises



The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the national honey week took place on 26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 and was organized by The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation (TUNADO) under the theme: ***Beekeeping a means for youth and women employment.*** The event attracted 85 exhibitors across the country and over 10,000 patrons tasting honey and buying other hive products. The main objective was to raise awareness on apiculture's potential to create employment for unemployed youth and women. Specifically, the honey week provided a platform for improved beekeeping training and skills development, business to business meeting and feedback from consumers.

The event activities were presided over by different officials; the press conference on 26/08/13 was presided over by Dr. Nicholas Kauta – Commissioner Livestock -MAAIF. The opening (29/08/13) of the three day exhibition was officiated by Hon Bright Rwamirama, State Minister for Animal Industry. The closing ceremony 31/08/13 was graced by various officials and these

were Hon Dr. James S Mutende – Minister of State for Industry and Technology the Guest of Honour, the FAO Country Representative – Alhaji M Jallow, Commissioner Industry and Technology Joshua Mutambi and Principal Entomologist MAAIF – Alice Kangave. During the closing ceremony best exhibitors and partners were awarded plaques. The award to best exhibitor went to Sulma Foods, the best women group was Gates Honey and best youth group was Bee House Products. In addition to the above, Environmental Alert was awarded best National partner and FAO for platinum sponsorship.

More exciting and unique about this year's event was the training platforms which gave the public and apiculture stakeholders a lot to learn regarding beekeeping as a means for employment. A training on beekeeping as a business venture was conducted by Hilary Besekya – Tropical Beekeeping Institute. Beekeepers were also introduced to a new innovation of a local style hive



Guest of Honour touring the stalls



Honey samples at the Honey Week



Guest of Honour presents an award to Environmental Alert Officer



*Exhibitors attending Lecture of Standards*



*Hilary Besekeya (TBI) training delegates*

where beekeepers can harvest both propolis and honey. A practical training on how to make this hive using bamboo was conducted by Kisaali Bosco the Coordinator Mt. Elgon Beekeeping Community (MBECK). Similarly the honey processors and packers also had a lot to learn regarding standard and certification of products both for the local market and International market. In his presentation the official from UNBS –

Lutaaya Joseph informed the processors standards are strategic tools that reduce costs by minimizing waste and errors, and increasing productivity. As a result majority of the processors were motivated to apply for UNBS certification

TUNADO is grateful to its partners Bees for Development under the Uganda Honey Trade Project 2010-2014 (a Comic Relief

funded project), FAO, MAAIF, Environmental Alert, SNV, OXFAM, FAO, Self Help Africa, NAADS, Swiss Contact Uganda, Afro-Plast Enterprises and ZOA for the financial and technical support towards the event.

*By Mable Charity  
Programme Manager  
The Uganda National Apiculture  
Development Organisation -TUNADO*

# Beekeeping for Women and Youth Employment

## FAO GREAT LAKES PROJECT: Creating Employment for Youth and Women through Beekeeping



**The Overall Goal:** The overall goal of the Great Lakes project is to facilitate and enhance incomes and living standards of the rural households in the Great Lakes Region by promoting agricultural commercialization, through support to market oriented production, improved marketing efficiency and value addition/agro-processing, using the commodity value chain development approach.

Using the Value Chain Approach, and in partnership with Government Agencies, the Private Sector and other Development Partners. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – Great Lakes project, in an effort to enhance commercialization of agriculture has focused on ; **Capacity Building** of the different Honey Value Chain actors through Trainings - several Community Based Facilitators are now in

place, Farmer Institutional Development – farmer groups have been merged and developed into co-operatives, Facilitating establishment of modern demo apiaries, etc; Facilitating **Market Linkages**; Supporting **Value Addition** e.g. Construction of Honey Collection/Refinery centres & branding of honey; Facilitating establishment of reliable **Input Supply Centres** especially modern beehives; Linkage to **Market Information** &

other service providers; Introduction of the **VSLA approach**; and **enhancing networking** with other beehive products stakeholders in the region.

As a result of the above a number of youths and women have highly benefited in beekeeping and in particular we front 2 success stories below though there many benefiting in similar and different ways:

### ALEX BARUHUKIRE OF KASHAMBYA – KABALE

#### District

**Before:** Alex Baruhukire of Kashambya is aged 31, before the project interventions he tried to refine honey using mosquito nets and packing it in used mineral water bottles and jerry cans. The refinery place was a mud & wattle store at his home.

**To date:** Alex is chairperson of the Business Wing for Kashambya Beekeepers Co-operative Society supported by the Great Lakes project. He has access to a proper honey collection /refinery centre well equipped with refinery equipment from the **FAO's** Great Lakes project. He has been linked to makers of proper packaging materials and labels designed by the co-operative with the help of the project.

**Results of the interventions:** Alex's market for honey has widened, he can now supply supermarkets too which could not accept his honey before. Working with other in the co-operative has done a lot for publicity of his honey. From the annual sales of about **300 Kgs** of refined honey he is now able to sell more than **one ton** of refined honey in a year.

### MRS. PAULINE KIRASHA OF KMC – KABALE District

**Before:** Mrs. Pauline Kirasha of KMC Kabale has been a mother of many, both biological and adopted children. Initially she kept bees at subsistence level, only getting honey for home use and gifts to friends and relatives.

**To date:** Mrs. Kirasha has now been trained by the Great Lakes project as one of the Honey Demo Farmers in the area. She has constructed a 30ft X 20ft shelter for beehives using locally available materials with wire mesh and iron sheets, which can house over 100 beehives. And now beginning to produce honey commercially.

**Results of the interventions:** Mrs. Kirasha's apiary has since expanded from 8 beehives to 40 beehives and she is still working on the increase. She can now harvest up to about **600 Kgs** of honey in year from less than **150 Kgs** of honey in the previous years.

**Future Considerations:** A lot still needs to be done though especially in changing the mindset of farmers to **manage the modern hives** appropriately, and refining value addition methods especially the **"Nturire" drink**. More **beehive products** still need to be produced at farmer level outside the honey refining, making of Propolis and honey wax extraction. Involvement of **more youths** especially in the rural areas vital, otherwise industry is aging in some areas. And ofcourse more capacity building for the honey farmers' cooperatives.

COMPILED BY:

**MS. PATRICIA NSIIME**

**NATIONAL PROJECT MANAGER**

**FAO – GREAT LAKES PROJECT**

# Knowing When to Harvest Honey

In VI Issue of ApiNews TUNADO invited readers to share their knowledge and experience about how they know the correct time to harvest honey. We were particularly interested to learn about environmental cues, for example, when certain tree species have finished flowering, and also the bees' behaviour. In this article we document some of the responses submitted by experienced beekeepers.

Japeth Kwirigira explained that in Kisoro beekeepers look to see when the bees are vibrating their wings at the hive entrance. This tells the beekeeper that they are ripening the honey and you can be confident that two weeks after seeing this vibrating behaviour the honey will be ripe and ready for harvesting. Another sign mentioned by Kwirigira is the amount of foraging activity. During the main honey flow foraging bees are extremely active as they rush to take advantage of the available nectar. As the honey flow lessens and bees become satisfied with their accumulated stores the forages spend more time in the hive – hence a clue that there is honey. The main environmental cue used to indicate the harvest period is the end of the main flowering season. In Kisoro beekeepers harvest honey at the end of the substantial nectar flow period from the main crops which are sorghum, maize, beans and Irish potatoes. The main harvest is cropped in February and March.

Hilary Mbabazi Besekya of Rubirizi teaches beekeeper to prepare for honey harvesting two to three weeks after they have seen certain plants flowering in abundance. In particular the timing of coffee and thorny acacia flowering can be used as a predictor. He mentions that the major harvest season is from June to September, whilst the minor season is from March to April.

Robert Okodia of Lira explained that to know the right time to harvest honey it is first necessary to observe and monitor when bees are most active collecting nectar from preferred bee plants. Then after three to five weeks of good nectar flow it is time to harvest honey. In his area there are two harvest seasons, September to December, and January to March. Another clue to the amount of honey in the hive is the defensive behaviour of the bees. When bees aggressively guard their hive entrance one can conclude that they have good honey stores.

In Arua there are also two harvest seasons according to Keffa John, a short season from September to October and a longer season from March to July. The honey harvested in October is largely from crops such as simsim, peas and beans, whereas nectar from fruit trees provides the forage for the long season. According to Keffa John's calendar honey harvesting coincides with the swarming season.

The different honey harvest periods in different parts of Uganda reflect the varying agroecology across the country. This makes local knowledge extremely valuable and novice beekeepers should always learn from more experienced beekeepers in their communities.

### Ripening honey

*Bees collect nectar and deposit it into honeycomb cells, then by vibrating their wings they dehydrate it to a moisture content of 20% or less. When the honey reaches this level, the bees cap the cell. Uncapped honey has higher moisture content and if harvested, it will not have a long shelf life and will eventually ferment.*

Compiled by

**Janet Lowore**

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## API- NEWS CHALLENGE TWO



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## How to Succeed with Bait Hives

Bait hives are used to attract swarms which are then transferred by the beekeeper into another hive – their permanent home. The use of bait hives is particularly useful where natural hive colonisation is hard to achieve, for whatever reason. In TUNADO's newest 'Readers' Challenge' we are asking beekeepers to write and tell us about how to succeed with bait hives.

Based on readers' experiences we would like to hear about:

- The size and shape of a bait hives which work well
- The best places to locate bait hives
- The best time of year to catch swarms in your location
- Any attractants which beekeepers have shown to work well

We would also like to hear how beekeepers ensure that a swarm captured using a bait hive does not abscond from the hive into which it is relocated. For example, how soon after a swarm enters a bait hive must the beekeeper relocate it to be successful, and what about distance?

TUNADO are seeking this knowledge from beekeepers across Uganda. Please write and tell us about how you succeed in using bait hives. TUNADO is offering a financial prize for the best information which will be printed in upcoming editions of APINEWS.

#### To take up this challenge you must:

Tell us your name, contact details and specific location where you keep bees in Uganda. Write one paragraph telling about how you use bait hive successfully. Be guided by the questions above. The prizes will be awarded to those letters with detailed explanations and you must also describe how you learnt this knowledge. Send your entry by e-mail to info@tunadobees.org or by letter to P. O. Box 8680 Kampala or to TUNADO office on Buganda Road.

The letters will be judged by a panel from TUNADO and Bees for Development. Three prizes will be awarded as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> prize UGX 100,000

2<sup>nd</sup> prize UGX 60,000

3<sup>rd</sup> prize UGX 40,000

## Api-price watch

Find prices of the different equipment required in processing hive products

No	Item	Unit	Unit Price
1	Solar wax extractor	1	3,200,000
2	Wax steamer	1	3,800,000
3	Honey Press	1	2,850,000
4	Refractometer- Atago model	1	1,000,000
5	Refractometer - UK model	1	1,050,000

SOURCE: Beehouse Products Uganda Limited

# Beekeeping

## MY JOURNEY TO THE BEE WORLD

Born in 1986, studied in Ntungamo district for my Primary Education, later Kampala and went to Makerere University. I am a graduate of science education and a teacher by profession.

As a child there are two men in my village that I always admired for the work they always did. Deep down in the mountains of Ntungamo, these men had local structures that I later knew were called Bee Hives(Local), every time these men came to the hills and found us rearing goats, they would be carrying source pans, Pangas , knives and smoky dried cow dung ready to start honey harvesting. Of course as children we always begged and we were given honey at the end of their harvest but after daring the stings of bees.

For the last two decades, with their crude methods of honey harvesting, bee keeping and dependency on local African Bees, they have been in position to raise incomes for their families, taken their children to school, built houses and are proud to be bee farmers today. My occasional visits to the Village made me meet these two noble men, after 25 years of their work I had a long chat with them in August, 2012. They told me about their life story with their bee interaction and I was inspired to join them.

On my return to Kampala, i attended the Honey expo in 2012 organized by TUNADO , after the expo my mind set changed and I quickly made a phone call to the village and spoke to one of these old men and I asked him about the prices of local bee Hives, and he told me each costs 10,000/=, I had saved some 500,000/=, I thought about it and with in two days I gave them some facilitation for transport and they brought me 25 bee Hives at 250,000/=

We shared more information and we agreed they help me set my Apiary which they did. Months after I went to the village during Holidays and we harvested 50kg of Honey in January 2013, having been the first harvest, we were excited, I jubilated and indeed saw my dream come true of becoming a Bee farmer. We decided to enjoy our first Harvest even having been told by the same men that a kilograms of crude Honey is 7000/= in my village , I was not worried, I forfeited 350,000/= and we simply enjoyed our first Harvest , used our honey

# as a Business Venture

at home and gave out some to our friends.

Recently after attending the recent Honey exhibition again on 29/8/2013, my interest for attending the expo was to find out what was going on in the Bee world, it was amazing, I had a chance to see more tools to use, it was my first time to see a smoker honestly, bee brush, honey strainers to mention but a few. Any way I was inspired also by the various products exhibited from bees such as candles, wine, jelly.

It was on that note that I purchased bee suits for my two mentors (Mutaribanga and Nyabirisa) because for the last 25 years of their Bee interaction they told me they were used to bee stings and were not worried of being stung, of course having studied about bees in Biology lessons and also knowing the pain from a sting, I internally brushed off their claims, I bought them bee suits and gumboots which I dispatched to the village and received blessings from them, it was their first time to put them and use them they were excited and motivated to carry on their work.

After getting the good results, ideas from the expo (29/8/2013) I quickly went home and got back to my two mentors who have turned out to be my close allies, with their vast experience. We smiled our way again to the bee Hives and harvested 180kg of Honey, if I were to go by the village crude honey price it would fetch me 1,260,000/= at 7000/= per kilogram. However, this time am determined to go the processing way, no wonder with the excitement from home my first visit on 11/9/2013 was TUNADO offices where I was again reignited with welcome faces of the famous man in a hat (Mr. Jurua) the chairman, soft spoken Ms. Mable Charity, and the smiling gentleman in the corner of the office Mr. Dickson Biryomumaisho who is the Executive Director of TUNADO and Aaro Bomujuni was equally supportive.

These guys excited me more and I have had to think twice, having taken home 10 new modern box shaped Hives, I have ordered my mentors to make me more 40 Hives (local). By the end of December 2013, my Apiary will have 75 bee hives and by sure I hope to smile to the bank at my next harvest in 2014 with at least 2 million shillings, kicking poverty out of my Vocabulary meanwhile also keeping my professional Job. From the



*Local style hives from Ntungamo District*

discussions with my elderly mentors the local hive gives more Honey than the modern hive and practically requires less attention, when I asked them about the durability of the local hive they were quick to take me to one of their 400 hives and showed me a bee hive from where they used to give me honey 25 years ago when I was a young boy in the village. I had no doubt but to give these two guys credit.

What more can I say am excited, happy, my mother is excited too, and what I need is surely in my palms already, I mean the MONEY. If there is anybody who still believes in impossibilities, act now, don't wait to over think about what you want, start now or you will never get started.

Great thanks to the TUNADO staff, thank

you for highlighting the importance of a bee which we never feed but we simply provide a house and in return it gives us honey for cash.

At 27 years of age, am not worried about my salary, I have taken a big limp and a stride to richness, I only keep anticipating for the next honey harvest, I already have set up my honey bag, my APIARY.

**Akalabamu Augustine Jerome**  
**Teacher at Bishop Cipriano Kihangire s.s.s**  
**Coordinator, National Association of**  
**Science Teachers Uganda and now**  
**Team Leader of Kijubwe Bee Farmers**  
**Association.**

# Would you like to avoid Crop Raids by Elephants: Keep Bees

There are few things worse for a field of ripening maize than a herd of elephants. Farmers living around protected areas such as Murchison Falls National Park, have to put up with the problem animals from the nearby protected areas trampling through their fields of grain and other crops. They are obviously not allowed to shoot them, and fencing is too expensive for communities living near protected areas, who are principally dependent on subsistence farming and on a limited number of cash crops and dairy. To make matters worse, there are no mechanisms in place to compensate those whose crops have been destroyed by animals. The issue of problem animals can be highly emotive for the affected communities as important livelihood resources are destroyed and human life is lost. What to do?

One answer is to keep bees. Elephants keep away from the buzzing insects, so a few strategically placed hives can do wonders for a farmer's crop and her/his peace of mind. The results of a pilot study in Kenya published in the *African Journal of Ecology*, show that a farm protected by the beehive fence had 86 per cent fewer successful crop raids by elephants and 150 per cent fewer raiding elephants than a control farm without the fence. The fence is constructed of log beehives suspended on poles beneath tiny thatched roofs (to keep off the sun). The hives are connected by eight metre lengths of fencing wire. Elephants avoid the hives and will attempt to push through the wire but this causes the hives to swing violently causing the elephants to fear an attack of angry bees.

And unlike a fence, bees have other uses too: they pollinate crops and they produce honey which is a valuable food, which finds a good market in Uganda. Keeping bees is not time-consuming and fits well with other farm work. It takes 6 months from the time when the bees occupy the hive to the first honey

harvest. After that a farmer can harvest honey twice a year for the next 5 years or more, with little or no additional investment. Beekeeping is a mixed farming activity with other commodities such as vanilla, coffee, eucalyptus and *moringa* tree production. Plus, problems such as drought do not affect honey production as badly as other farming activities. That makes it a good source of extra cash for smallholders.

Like elephants, beekeepers do not like to get stung. But many do not have suitable protective gear. Even when protective gears are available, the quality is poor and they do not last long. Besides, the cost of a bee suit (on average UGX 100,000) is prohibitive to majority of rural poor beekeepers. There is therefore, need to train beekeepers on how to make this gear (net, clothes, boots, overall). Other challenges faced by Keepers in Uganda include: inadequate linkages with large buyers and processors and number of marketing organizations, lack of information on product demand, high cost and poor quality of packaging materials, lack of marketing techniques, in appropriate machinery and technologies for honey production and processing and limited access to affordable finance. Additionally due to inadequate extension, beekeepers management practices are still very basic.

Despite, the above challenges, several opportunities still exist. These include: establishment of modern beekeeping farms, which produce organic honey and Queen Bees and increasing the production, processing and packaging of other by-products such as propolis, royal jelly, pollen, bee venom, honey wine and brood to serve niche markets.

**Ambrose Bugaari**  
**Enterprise Development Specialist**  
**(Agribusiness & nature conservation)**

## Why you should have your honey and hive products certified

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is mandated to carry out certification of all products in the country against specified standards. A standard is simply an agreed way of doing something. It could be about making a product, managing a process, delivering a service or supplying materials. Standards ensure that products and services are safe, reliable and of good quality. For businesses like honey processing, they are strategic tools that reduce costs by minimizing waste and errors, and increasing productivity. They help companies to access new markets, level the playing field for developing countries and facilitate free and fair global trade. Standards are one of the key factors that contribute to competitiveness of goods & services. Honey standards specify quality, safety, packaging and labeling requirements. In Uganda there are key two honey related standards as highlighted below;

- US 641:2006: Code of practice for apiary management, handling and processing of bee- products
- US 18: 2004: Honey specification

In this context, certification refers to a procedure by which a Third Party gives a written assurance that a product, process or service conforms to specified standards requirements. The benefits of certification include; winning consumer confidence, access to markets, safeguarding the image and reputation of the manufacturer, protection against unfair competition and also important to note that Government & International Bodies rely on certified products for their purchases / procurements. UNBS will offer you these types of certification depending on your needs and requirements: Product certification (Quality-Mark), Standards certification (Standards-Mark) and Systems certification. Standards mark (S-Mark) is Mandatory for products covered by compulsory standards and Quality mark (Q-Mark) is Voluntary.

### UNBS Marks



**Lutaaya Joseph**  
**Standards Officer**  
**UNBS**

# Honey and Beauty

Everyone knows that body presentation makes your body communicate about yourself, and therefore one should not struggle much with beauty; with honey in place as a natural cosmetic. Find a tip on how one can use honey to keep looking beautiful.

## Using smooth honey skin lotion



A mixture of honey, lemon and olive oil

This lotion uses honey natural humectants properties to moisturize and hydrate your skin leaving you feeling smooth, soft and special.

## How to prepare a honey mask

Stir a spoon full of honey with a tea spoon of organic olive oil and squeeze of lemon juice. Spread on after bath and rinse after 20 min. Do not miss another tip on how to keep your hair looking good and shiny using honey in the next issue.

Article secured from: [www.honeyassociation.com](http://www.honeyassociation.com)

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## Opinion Questions:

Is flavoured honey natural Honey?  
Please send your views and comments at [info@tunadobeas.org](mailto:info@tunadobeas.org) or write to Box 8680 Kampala. Your comments will be published in the next issue of the api-news letter.



Dickson (TUNADO Executive Director) serves his staff a cup of honey tea

## Kitchen Style with Honey: Get the best results from your employees

**H**oney week Honey week. This was the mood and tone in TUNADO office in the month of August 2013 as the honey week team at TUNADO was preparing for the great week in TUNADO's calendar. I was part of great team which made Honey week 2013 a success but this was due to the energies delivered from the consistent use of honey.

Honey is a brain booster and energizer. This is a confirmation from the author as I have come to love it, use it and come up with great results. A well remembered Thursday, when the Executive Director of TUNADO prepared me a cup of tea with HONEY. I was so tired and stressed from the hectic day's work, and the ED requested the team to continue working after 6.00pm as a lot was still pending and also plan for the following day. So tired and stressed, my inner heart was already set to leave office go home to rest and I was determined not continue working after 6pm. Not with Mr. Dickson Biryomumaisho, the Executive Director of TUNADO, he will always do anything to get the desired results. After realizing my mood swing, he went to the office tea/Coffee Corner and in a minute, he handed me a cup of tea. This was not ordinary tea. It was tea with honey.

I realized the power of honey, the aroma and taste of honey woke up my sleeping nerves and muscles and the fact that the honey tea was served by my team leader, it energized my brain further. My mind changed in the

positively and instantly started working again like it was 8.30am when am just reporting to work. The honey tea was so tasty and for sure I enjoyed it, thank you so much Dickson for being a good and innovative team leader. Kitchen style with honey stretches in the office circles. This is a tip to managers and team leaders. A jar of honey must always be part of that decorated tea/coffee corner. When your staff take honey their productivity will be enhanced, thus great results.

When preparing honey tea, one should be mindful of temperature. There is apparent evidence that some of the flavor compounds in honey deteriorate during heating, suggesting that honey should be not heated to more than 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). So, it might be wise to let the tea cool down a bit before adding the honey. The flavor of honey will be clear and pronounced. Again it should be not only the flavor when adding honey to hot tea, but rather the honey nature antibiotic properties at high temperature the enzymes are destroyed. So always be mindful to retain the flavor, the nature enzymes for energy, test and the medicinal element in honey.

Always remember to use honey instead of sugar for great performance and good health.

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# THE UGANDA NATIONAL APICULTURE DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

*A membership & apex body for coordinating apiculture sector in Uganda*

## VISION

Being a vibrant membership based apex body coordinating apiculture industry in Uganda for sustainable national development.

## MANDATE

Being a national apex body that coordinates initiatives of stakeholders in the apiculture industry.

## TUNADO Philosophy

"We believe in promoting apiculture as a business enterprise."

## Mission

To provide a national platform for stakeholders to promote and develop economically viable and environmentally sustainable apiculture industry in Uganda.

## Core values

- Accountability
- Good Governance
- Innovativeness and Voluntarism
- Non discriminatory

## Goal

Membership representation, advocacy, lobby and apiculture promotion.

## OBJECTIVES

- To bring together all people involved in the Beekeeping industry into active and gainful commercial production of honey especially for the rural poor.

- To contribute to policy formulation and implementation processes pertaining to the apiculture industry in Uganda.
- To protect the National bee colonies from diseases, infections infestations, and interferences of a harmful nature of whatever manner, so as to maintain the productive quality of the indigenous bee species.
- To conduct research and disseminate knowledge pertaining to the apiculture industry in Uganda.
- To liaise with Uganda National Bureau of Standards, Uganda National Bureau of Statistics and any other body to monitor quality, standards and statistics of bee products.
- To collaborate with any other Beekeeping related organizations and firms all over the world hence, soliciting for local, regional and international markets for hive products.

## Upcoming events

### 43<sup>rd</sup> Apimondia International Apicultural Congress

Venue: Kiev, Ukraine

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> Sept to 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2013

### 21<sup>st</sup> Uganda International Trade Fair

Venue: UMA Show ground Kampala

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013

### 82<sup>nd</sup> National Honey Show

Venue: Webridge UK

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> October 2013

### International Symposium on Agriculture

Venue: Serena Hotel Kampala

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013

### Apiculture MSP

Venue: Kampala

Date: December 2013

## Membership

**TUNADO** is a membership and national apex body mandated by the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture Animal industry and fisheries (MAAIF) to coordinate the apiculture sector in Uganda. Currently its membership is open to individuals, Institutions, Non- Government Organization, Companies and associations or other persons involved in Apiculture development in Uganda. This membership is renewed annually and is based on the following categories:-

Category	Membership fee (UGX)	Annual subscription fee (UGX)
Associations, Processors Corporate Membership	100,000/=	200,000/=
Registered Groups/GBOs	100,000/=	100,000/=
Individual Membership	100,000/=	50,000/=
Honorary Membership	FREE	FREE

*If you are interested in receiving this Newsletter, please contact*

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*To support the beekeeping communities in Uganda; contact [info@tunadobees.org](mailto:info@tunadobees.org)*