

WELCOME TO THE PRESENTATION  
ON

APICULTURE FOR THE POOR:  
POTENTIALS AND CHALLENGES  
BY

A. K. M. Shirajul Islam  
Executive Director  
BASA



- Beekeeping as an income generation activity and as an excellent means for crop pollination is still at an evolving stage in Bangladesh.
- It does not require expensive input resources like land, building, machinery raw materials etc.
- Lack of updated knowledge and appropriate skills needed for promotion and sustainable management of apiaries are major constraints in achieving meaningful results in honey.



## Apiculture and the poor

- At the farmers level generally poor people are involved
- Investment for apiculture activities is not high.
- Farmer starting with 10 bee boxes can increase the boxes up to 40 within 2 years and can earn Tk 3000 per month.
- Bee farming is not a whole time job and only 30% time is enough for it and it may be treated as an additional source of income.



## Potentials

- Delicious, nutritious and has a high medicinal value.
- Contains 181 nutrients including carbohydrates, proteins, enzymes, glucose, fructose, sucrose etc.
- Provides the body energy and works as preventive against diseases.
- Accelerates the growth of children and slows down the aging process of human body.
- An anti-oxidant agent prevents water and air borne diseases.
- Very useful for skin care and also for beautification.
- It works for curing cough and cold.



- In spite of the popularity and demand for honey a very low percentage of the population is habituated in taking honey.
- BASA study reveals that with some marketing efforts this demand can be raised in 5/6 times.
- At present total amount of honey consumed is 1000 metric tons.
- This demand can easily be raised up to 5000 metric tons with some market promotion initiatives.



- There is a good prospect of Bangladeshi honey in the export market .
- Honey produced in BASA has been tested in Georgia and Maryland University, USA, and has been found to be of universally acceptable standard.
- There is a tremendous scope to export Bangladeshi honey to European market since the demand of organic honey is rapidly increasing.



- BASA has so far been able to create potential contact for export of Bangladeshi honey to UAE, and to source India and also to a number of European countries through fair trade arrangement.
- In U.S.A. the bee farmers earn more money by renting out their bee boxes to the agricultural farmers than their earnings from the sale of honey.
- In Bangladesh it has been proved that with the contribution of bees in pollination, production of litchis, BaoKul, AppleKul etc. has been tremendously boosted.



## Challenges

- Need for upgrading technical skills
- Lack of proper knowledge and awareness on pollination
- Sustaining in the Dark season
- Expansion of honey market
- Myth breaking



## Honey Awareness Program

- Publicity for the usage and benefits of honey through media and by participating in fairs.
- Arranging seminars/conference for bee keeping, producing, processing and marketing.
- Making a slogan that honey is good for all ages in throughout of the year.
- Pure mustard honey will granulate during the winter due to the glucose concentration.
- Pollination due to bees causes a quality flower as well as a quality fruit.



## BASA's Role So Far

- Providing trainings on bee farming, bee management.
- Training on scientific and hygienic way of honey producing ,processing and also creating provision to access the market in the brand name “AADI”.
- Four trainings were conducted by the foreign experts
- 12 trainings and 300 (new and old) bee farmers were trained.



- BASA helped the bee farmers to form a society which was registered in the name “Bangladesh Bee Farmers and Society (BBFS)”.
- BBFS process their honey in a scientific and hygienic way through the latest honey processing plant in Bangladesh which belong to BASA located in Pekua, Mirjapur, Tangail.
- BASA helps in marketing the product of the farmers directly without any intervention of middle men which is helping them to uplift their livelihood.



## Suggested Measures

- Bee farmers require continuous training
- Training on scientific and hygienic ways of production, processing and also packing.
- Need support for making appropriate bee boxes which may be available to the farmers when they need.
- Other equipment like processing unit testing tools extracting machines and a honey testing lab should also be available for the benefit of the bee farmers.



- Strengthened BBFS that established with the support of BASA through continuous support such as:
  - Credit in dark season
  - Continuous advertisement
  - To ventilate grievances of the poor bee farmers
  - Carry out mass campaign for market promotion



- From BASA's experience it has been found that almost 80% bee farmers are extremely poor and remaining 20% are moderately poor.
- Poor bee farmers and their platform BBFS deserve the particular attention by the PKSf for necessary technical, financial and marketing support for the advancement of these highly potential apiculture industry in Bangladesh.
- The technical and market promotion support may come from PKSf as a grant while the required fund for dark period bee management can be offered by PKSf through suitable by Partner Organizations.



THANKS TO ALL



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