



FRIENDS SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Bee keeping progress report – July 2020

1. Introduction

Bee keeping project is a sub project of the main implemented project in 2017/ 2018 called “The SECOND project”. The aim of this project is to increase the level of livelihood for the parents living in the project area through identified groups. It also to responds to the global cross cutting issue of protecting sources of water and therefore sensitizing parents and the whole community on the essentials of protecting their water sources for future use. Frisucode collaborates with Nature friends to execute this project to the communities covered by this project.

This project targeted two IGA groups namely; KIVIWABOMA and AMKENI group with 30 members each. Therefore the total number of members in these groups is 60. Both group members were trained and provided with 20 beehives each group which makes a total of 40 beehives provided.

2. Performance of bee keeping project

Since beehives provided, honeys were successfully harvested with some challenges which came to be observed later. These challenges are explained below. This time 32 beehives worked very well, that means bees were able to get in, settled and prepared honey while the rest 8 were not very much successful. Bees in these hives, came into and not settled permanently. They were coming in and leave the hives due to different reasons as explained by an expert.

In this season, 103 litres of honey were harvested in different times from these two groups which generated a total amount of **1,236,000** Tshs to the groups. At the market, each litre of honey was sold at 12,000/- Tshs. Groups members were taught all the stages and in some of the beehives, they harvested themselves. In other hives, they needed to consult an expert to help them since the beehives were close to the people’s settlements and could bring effects to them considering these are African killer bees. At this point, the hives were harvested during the night to avoid disturbances.

The groups have not yet started to pack honeys for themselves. With the challenges outlined below, the amount of honeys harvested was low to encourage them packing. Honeys were sold to group members as first customers and then sold to individuals around the farms and in the project area. Though the production of honey is not that much as expected but on other side where the bee project located people are not tempting to district the environment the area is conserved as people are scared to come close to the hives. so far the little income earned is saved to Village Community Banking so that it increase profit.

3. Challenges encountered

Along the implementation, there have been different challenges observed as below

- a. There are other non – bees insects which compete with bees in the beehives. Many of bees have been chased out from the hives by other insects, therefore brought in disturbances to them for their settlement. These insects fought with bees and sometimes killed them, therefore some other times, the bees decide to go away and then later come back again.
- b. Some agricultural activities which are ongoing close to the identified area for bees demanded the use of chemicals in which others are not friends to bees.

4. Recommendations

The following are the recommendations toward bee keeping project

- a. The area for the bee keeping is recommended to be shifted to other area around Kikwe Ward. Frisucode has sited one Village which is close where regular shifting of beehives is recommended for bee attraction and encouraging productivity, Therefore, the project will continue to be the same but project location needs to be changed for huge anticipation of the project results and maximum honey production.
- b. Hiring of bee expert to help out with the challenges faced by the groups in different times. The expert will help them in assessments and provide technical advice to the members of groups, at least having an expert for six month continually will help to increase productivity
- c. Encourage the group members to plant more bee-fodder plants near the hives location
- d. Collaborate with village agricultural extension officer in encouraging better agricultural practices that aim at conserving nature and its biodiversity.
- e. Training on bee keeping in various weather condition as well as knowledge to understand the colony cycle.
- f. Encourage traditional (bee safe) methods for pest control include; frequent smoking of hives (to drive out beetles), avoiding throwing/scattering combs and honey near the hives, and application of ash near the hives.

NB:Group members are appreciating the project regardless with some challenges facing, but group members have request to the Organization that where possible they would like to have more Income Generating Activities such as Dairy goat keeping and Chicken keeping project, group members say this will also help to increase individual income as well as Microfinance group.

PICTURES



Figure 1: During hives assessment and cleanliness 2020



Figure 2: The day after harvesting honey some hives are fixed with bee attractor 2020



Figure 3: Group members together cleaning the hives with no bees



Figure 4: During the night expert preparing for harvesting honey 2020