

Ethiopian Honey Projects

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Abstract

The project I want to introduce comes from a Moxa initiative, in partnership with Comune di Modena e Provincia di Modena, to bring the basic techniques of modern and rational bee keeping to the region of Hidya, Ethiopia. This project has enabled a group of Ethiopian beekeepers to reach a good technical autonomy in building hives, combs, and comb foundation, using a mold and in transferring the bees from the traditional straw hives to the modern hives.

The project I am taking part in has involved 14 beekeepers with 35 hives. These beekeepers were found through the use of a questionnaire, both in English and in Amharic (copy of the questionnaire is available), which was sent to about 30 beekeepers of the area who already produce honey in the traditional manner.

Two of them, from two different villages, Shellalla and Giajura, attended a course at the Selam Center in Addis Ababa, and then they trained the other beekeepers involved in the project.

Moxa, in cooperation with the association of the Modena beekeepers "Amici dell'ape" ("The friends of the bee"), has also prepared a training video, which was used with these beekeepers and will also be used in the schools of the villages interested in informing the young about the potential of this agricultural activity.

The participants in the project have been supplied with the hives as a micro-credit. As the credit is refunded, new beekeepers can join the project. The micro-credit is refunded to MOXA under the form of 10% of the honey production for four years. Moxa gives this honey to the school of the Sister of the divine Providence for underweight children. In the future, we will refund other micro-credit schemes using money, but for the moment we preferred this kind of refunding.

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