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FILAPI 2026: Mar del Plata Becomes the Meeting Point for Latin American Beekeeping

The 17th Latin American Congress of Beekeeping concluded with 2,000 participants, 24 countries and a program placing knowledge, production, and the future of beekeeping at the center.

By SADA and FILAPI

For one week, Mar del Plata became the heart of Latin American beekeeping. From August 31 to September 6, the NH Gran Hotel Provincial hosted the 17th Latin American Congress of Beekeeping – FILAPI 2026, an event that brought together beekeepers, researchers, technicians, businesspeople, students, institutions, and industry leaders from Latin America and other continents.



Yet the true scale of the event was reflected in the diversity and depth of the topics. Bee Health, Biology, Flora and Pollination, Technology, Quality, Economics, Markets, Sustainability, Territorial Development, Value Addition, Training, Trade Organization, and Public Policy were among the major themes running throughout the program.

Science Takes Center Stage

One of the most notable aspects of the Congress was the response from the scientific community.



The conference session

A total of 326 scientific papers from 17 countries were submitted and evaluated by 42 specialists. Of these, 155 were selected for oral presentations and 171 for poster presentations. In addition, 108 of the papers had an international component.



The poster session

Argentine participation was particularly significant, with 212 papers, followed by contributions from Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Mexico, Bolivia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and other countries. The scientific output was complemented by a format that FILAPI introduced specifically for this edition: Beekeeping Experiences, a space designed to highlight knowledge developed in the field and practices implemented by producers, organizations, and institutions.

A total of 68 experiences from 9 countries were submitted, of which 51 were presented orally and 17 in poster format.



The combination of science and experience became one of the defining characteristics of FILAPI 2026: academic knowledge and practical production expertise engaging in dialogue within the same space.

An Agenda Focused on the Present and the Future

Throughout the Congress, conferences, symposia, panels, round tables, and workshops addressed a wide range of issues. The problem of Varroa was discussed in several sessions with representatives from Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay, and the USA. Pollination was addressed through two keynote lectures, one by Lucas Garibaldi, President of APIMONDIA's Scientific Commission on Flora and Pollination, and by Pablo Cavliglasso of the National Institute of Agroeconomical Technology (INTA).

Other key topics included honey adulteration; international honey markets, addressed by Norberto García Girou, President of APIMONDIA's Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Economics; differentiation and quality seals; sustainability; rural development; training; and the strengthening of beekeeping organizations.

Young people, women, marketing, and public policy also had a prominent place, while the various FILAPI Councils provided opportunities to deepen exchanges between organizations from different countries.

Within this framework, Lucas Martínez, President of SADA and President of APIMONDIA's Regional Commission for the Americas, also played an active role in the program. Among other activities, he moderated sessions related to training and extension and presented the work of SADA's Federal Council.

APIEXPO: The Production and Commercial Dimension

The scientific program was complemented by APIEXPO, where companies, institutions, and businesses connected to the beekeeping value chain showcased equipment, supplies, technology, genetics, services, and production solutions.



The ApiExpo at FILAPI 2026

The Congress's final report recorded 37 exhibitors and companies from Argentina, Latin America, and Europe that supported FILAPI 2026, confirming the importance of the commercial dimension of the event.

The commercial program was designed precisely with this objective in mind: for FILAPI to serve not only as a space for academic exchange, but also as a platform for building relationships, opening markets, and strengthening the sector's competitiveness.



In the words of Lucas Martínez, the aim was for the Congress to become a “driver of growth and development” for the regional beekeeping sector as a whole.

Beekeeping Also Took Place Outside the Conference Halls

FILAPI 2026 did not end inside the halls of the Hotel Provincial. Five technical visits gave participants the opportunity to experience different realities and production practices, turning the Congress into an experience that combined education, local engagement, and beekeeping tourism.

The initiative reflected a broader vision of the event: to learn about Latin American beekeeping not only through presentations and scientific papers, but also by visiting concrete Argentine experiences and making direct contact with producers, institutions, and local communities.

Building a Regional Community

The Latin American dimension was one of the central features of FILAPI 2026. The presence of delegations from 24 countries confirmed that the beekeeping sector faces challenges that transcend national borders, while at the same time offering experiences, knowledge, and solutions that can be shared among countries.

In the official presentation of the Congress, Lucas Martínez described the event as a space to “share experiences, exchange knowledge, and strengthen the relationships” that enable the sector to grow.

This perspective was also reflected in the earlier statements of Persi Luna Peralta, President of FILAPI, who highlighted SADA's tremendous work in organizing the event

and described the Congress as an opportunity to bring Latin American beekeepers together, share common challenges, and learn about advances and technologies from across the region.

A Major Collective Effort

At the close of the event, the figures provide a clear picture of the scope of FILAPI 2026: 2,000 participants, 24 countries, 326 scientific papers, 68 beekeeping experiences, 42 evaluators, 5 technical visits, and 37 companies and exhibitors. These figures represent not only the scale of the event, but also the many individuals, institutions, and delegations who traveled from different countries to Mar del Plata to spend a week sharing with the beekeeping community, with beekeeping itself taking center stage.



The final group photo of the Congress



For this reason, the assessment of FILAPI 2026 goes beyond statistics. For several days, Mar del Plata became a meeting point for an activity that crosses borders, economies, and territories, and whose greatest challenges include cooperation and collaboration.

The Congress concluded with the participation of Buenos Aires Province's Minister of Agrarian Development, Javier Rodríguez, together with Persi Luna Peralta and Lucas Martínez. In his closing assessment, Rodríguez summed up one of the key elements of the event: "The success of this Congress has to do with working together," exchanging knowledge, and strengthening the community.

FILAPI 2026 thus left a conclusion that extends beyond this particular Congress: Latin American beekeeping has an active and diverse community with much to say, investigate, produce, and build together.