OP-203 [Beekeeping for Rural Development]
Using non-traditional means of value addition to support rural honey and beeswax supply chains

Chris Keywood
Bees for Development

Beekeeping is a critical economic activity in many rural localities around the world. With few barriers to entry, rural beekeeping is accessible to almost anyone, regardless of wealth, age or gender. Rural landscapes are also regularly some of the best habitats for honey bees to thrive in. Where barriers do arise for rural beekeepers is in getting the honey and beeswax to market. Market access in rural conditions is always a challenging endeavour. The local markets are often small and can only support a small quantity of bee products. The high logistics costs involved in moving honey and beeswax to larger markets usually further away are prohibitive and can make these supply chains unsustainable. In order for rural beekeepers to combat this, methods need to be found to attract buyers to take on the logistics costs without lowering the price they will pay for the products. To incentivise buyers to do this the beekeepers have to have add value to their products but without expensive processing facilities and equipment traditional value addition is not feasible. Here we show other solutions to value addition. We have had success using in adding value to the beekeepers offering to buyers by helping the beekeepers take away some of the risk and logistic costs. Using freeware, we have developed a traceability and quality assurance system in order to prove the provenance and quality of the honey and beeswax before it is purchased, thus limiting the risk to the buyer.

Having organised beekeeper groups that have a central collection site, dramatically reduces the logistic burden on buyers, and working together small-scale beekeepers can offer large volumes of honey and beeswax from a central location.

These combined with evidence we have collected to support that beekeeping promotes forest protection and helps maintain biodiversity, beekeepers have a robust offering to buyers that helps to create a stable supply chain even in rural conditions.

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Christopher Keywood
Apimondia Congress 2025

Common value addition ideas

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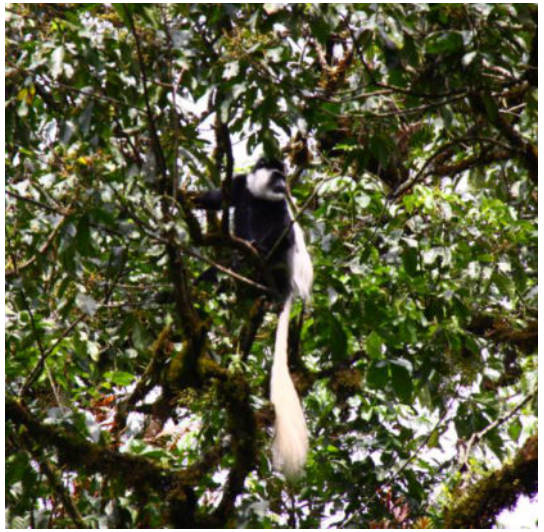
What works in a rural setting

Advantages of rural beekeeping



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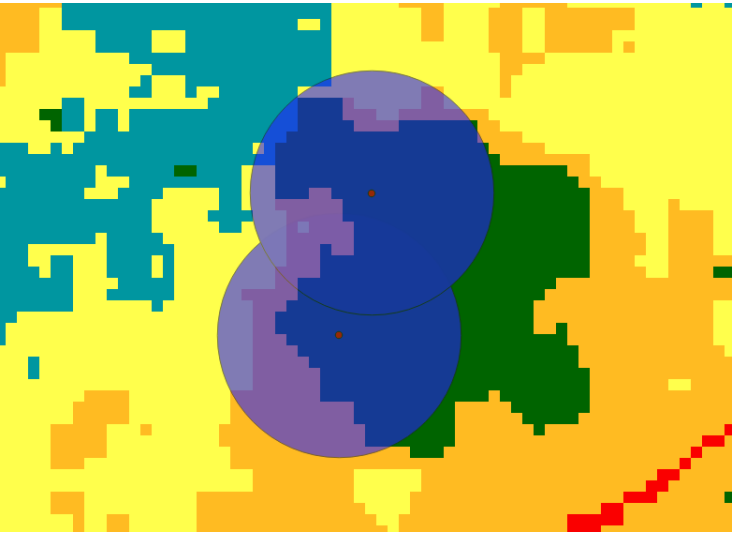
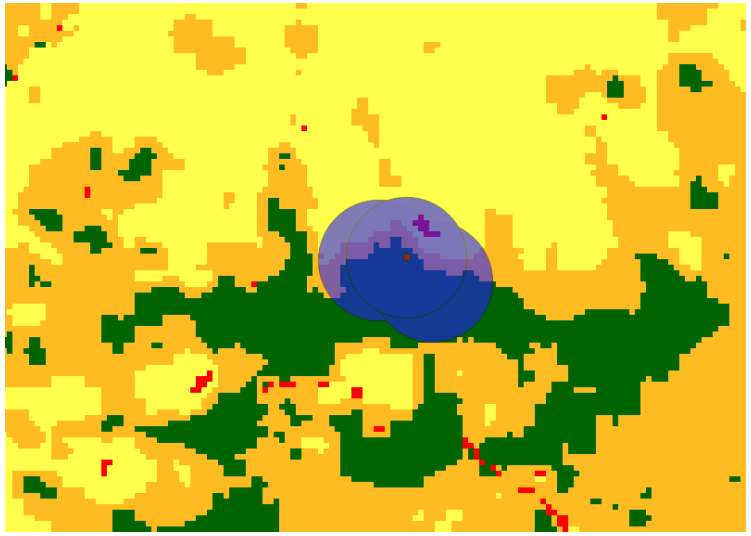
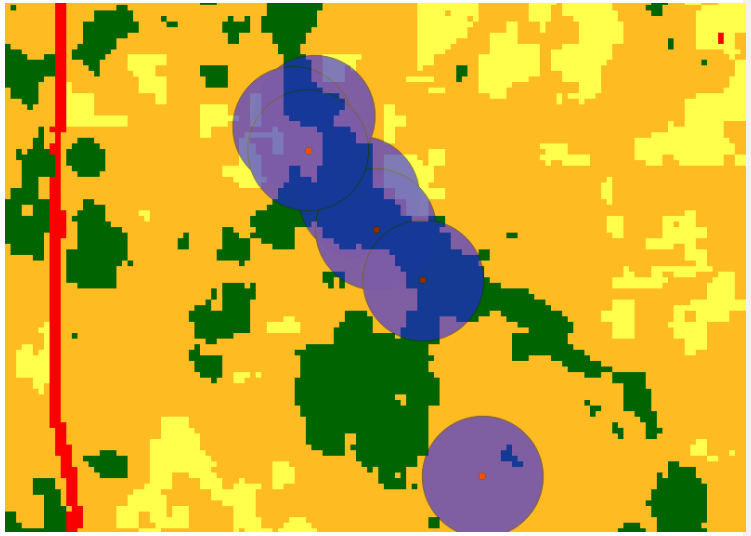
Conservation information







Story

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Unique honey varieties

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Traceability

Floral make up of your honey

Cashew - Anacardium occidentale

Dawadawa - Parkia biglobosa

The Dawadawa, is a large nectar source for the bees during the end of summer, flowering from May to August. The nectar feom the Dawadawa can be quite bitter and helps to create a less sweet but more intensely flavoured honey.

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Thank you!

For more information:
www.beesfordevelopment.org
chriskeywood@beesfordevelopment

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