

PP-296 [Beekeeping Technology and Quality]

A fire resistant and Honey Badger(HB)-controlled beehive for fire prone and honey badger prevalent areas

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BACKGROUND: Most of the dry areas of Africa are very suitable for beekeeping as the long dry periods with flora from the vegetation create the enabling environment for the thriving beekeeping industry however threats of wildfire and human-wild animal conflicts cannot be avoided

Problem Description: Wildfire, elephants and Honey Badgers are a threat to the beekeeping industry in Africa with respect to life, investments in beekeeping, biodiversity etc. As some of these activities are not within the control of the beekeeper, the beekeeper has to adopt strategies to overcome these threats. The only possible means is to produce a wild animal and fire -resistant hives that will keep the bees intact in case of any attack.

OBJECTIVES: To develop a fire resistant and honey badger - cum – elephant tolerant beehives.

Methodology

- A cuboid metal framework, and mesh screened hive
- Floor tiles
- Burnt clay tiles of floor tiles dimensions
- Fiber glass sandwiched between 0.7 mm thick stainless steel metal plates.
- Bamboo, rattan, raffia

METHODS: These beehives could be knocked down or completely framed. It will have framed work with 3 of 1.25cm U – channels long its width, length, under and top sides for which fire-resistant materials will be slided into place to block the effect of the fire on the bees. The screened and lock ones prevent the HB from getting access to the combs.

Results and conclusions

The fire intensity has to pass through 3 layers of fire-resistant materials with air pockets which are bad conductors of heat. Thus, the bees in the inner chambers are preserved and our investments are protected. Similarly with the hives at the honey badger prone areas as the hives are locked up the turning up and down of the hives by the HB may not open the hives for the HB to get access to the honey and will not be able to destroy the hives and its content hence could be frustrated to leave as they even able to manage with the stings of bees