

PP-500 [Beekeeping for Rural Development]

Honeybee Colonies Fencing - A Solution to Destruction of Crops

Sankarankutty Kannamvallimadam

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In Western ghats of South India, farmers face significant problems with wild animals, primarily due to crop damage caused by animals like elephants, wild boars, deer, and monkeys entering their fields to forage, often resulting in substantial economic losses and impacting their livelihoods, especially when living near forest boundaries. Crop damage by the wild animals in and around protected areas in India is also a very serious issue among the farmers and conservationists.

Taking into consideration particularly in the forest boundary region of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka states, we have developed fencing the boarder with Apis cerana bee colonies, and found that, it serves as a natural defence to thwart the menace of wild animals especially elephants.

In Vythiri village of Wayanadu district, a fencing of 25 Apis cerana colonies was erected in the year 2024, where there was severe attack of elephants. The farms of tapioca, banana, were destroyed every year and 95 % of crops were damaged and farmers face huge loss due to farming. The bee colonies fencing helped to restrict the entry of elephants to the fields. The model can be replicated in different parts of the forest boundaries.