PP-501 [Beekeeping for Rural Development]
Traditional beekeeping in georgia

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Beekeeping has evolved significantly over the past 150 years with scientific advancements and modern hive technologies improving colony management, beekeeper convenience, and efficiency. However, traditional beekeeping remains a crucial part of Georgia's cultural and ecological heritage and deserves preservation.
Adjara, a southwestern province of Georgia, remained isolated for decades, particularly under Soviet rule. Until Georgia's independence in 1990, access to the region required special permission. This isolation contributed to the preservation of conventional hive designs and techniques long after they had disappeared elsewhere.
Traditional Hives in Adjara
Beekeeper Roland Gogoberidze still maintains two types of traditional hives:
1. Djara ( )
o Made from a horizontally split and hollowed linden trunk (80 cm long, 35 cm wide).
o It can be opened in autumn for honey extraction and then resealed.
2. Khovani ( )
o A single hollowed linden trunk (60 cm long, 30–35 cm wide).
o Non-openable horizontally, functioning as a self-sustaining colony.
Hive Placement and Management
Both Djara and Khovani are traditionally placed on beech trees, as brown bears cannot climb them, protecting the colonies naturally.
• Khovani, being lighter, can be manually lifted onto trees.
• Djara, heavier, requires special lifting equipment.
• One beech tree can support up to thirty hives.
Currently, Roland Gogoberidze maintains forty traditional hives, preserving centuries-old beekeeping traditions. These methods provide valuable insights into sustainable apiculture and the potential integration of natural hive designs into modern beekeeping.