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Beekeeping is a widespread activity with a wealth of existing local knowledge and skills. The additional, scientific and technical knowledge through theoretical and practical training can lead to greatly improved harvests of honey, other bee hive products and colony multiplication. Through training, beekeepers or honey hunters/ harvesters will be able to build on their resources to create more income by harvesting and processing honey and other hive products more skilfully, and to obtain better prices by saving and selling hive products and by making secondary products. Beekeepers and trainers often lack appropriate training materials. Through extension programme, follow up action can be done for implementing the programme successfully. In India, the Directorate of Beekeeping under Khadi and Village Industries Commission is engaged in implementing Beekeeping programmes and extension activities throughout the country and Research and Training by Central Bee Research and Training Institute, Pune. The other agencies involved in Beekeeping training and extension programmes are Khadi and Village Industries Board in each state, Universities, ICAR institutions, Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, Forestry Departments, Tribal Development Department, Rural Development Department Beekeeping Institutions, National Dairy Development Boards, Rubber Board etc.

In all Centres, 5 days to one month theory and practical oriented training is the usual schedule for beekeeping training in addition to long term apiarist courses. Most of the rural population are directly depended on bees and beekeeping for their livelihood. More that 40-45% of farmers are not only practicing beekeeping for honey and other value added products but they use mainly for cross pollination which yields more that 90 % of the income. The details of training, extension and for sustainable beekeeping as a livelihood option will be discussed.