

PP-521 [Beekeeping for Rural Development]
Promoting commercial beeswax rendering through the adoption of African steam cooking principles for use in beeswax steam extraction- the process of simply converting two (2) buckets with lids into a 3 – container steam extractor system

Rita Naa Asabia Okine
data ghana beekeepers association

BACKGROUND:
Bees wax processing is done after extracting honey from the combs. Africa which should be leading the world in her organic beeswax production is lacking behind due to the method being used to process its beeswax. However, steam cooking which is part of African traditional cooking could be adopted to process comb into beeswax.

Problem Description:
About 60% of the honey on the market is from the wild and most of the honey hunters after squeezing out the honey from the comb throw it away thus losing the precious organic beeswax. as the current processing mechanism is cumbersome.

OBJECTIVE: To convert 2 buckets into an efficient 3 container beeswax steam extractor system – an innovation to promoting commercial beeswax trade in Africa.

METHODOLOGY:
2 stainless buckets with lid of dimension. Top, bottom and height dimensions are 33, 23 and 29cm respectively,
- Metal drilling machine and bit
- Metal cutter
One of the buckets is cut into two and the top one is converted into a sieve by covering its open bottom with its perforated. the small base from the cut- out bucket is placed in the original bucket whilst combs is put into the sieve and mounted on the small base. The set- up is placed in the normal bucket with water and placed on fire.

As the steam from the water melts the combs at 60-65 degrees the molten wax is collected in the small bucket below.
Result and conclusion;

To encourage mass production of beeswax for its commercial trade, we have to adopt a less cumbersome processing method at a cheaper cost and less operational processing time as the process can run virtually on its own. Demonstration to beekeepers is easily understood. Honey hunters and beekeepers will be able to get beeswax to the market by increasing their yields in beeswax rendering and commercial trading