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Since 2005, the National Veterinary Schools of Nantes and Alfort have proposed a post-graduate training in Honey Bee Health. The “Honey Bee Health and Medicine” program was created to develop diagnostic skills and provide expertise to veterinarians.

The certification aims to provide veterinarians the following skills: Observation and interpretation of colony disorders; Diagnosis of Honey Bee colony diseases and health troubles and collecting relevant samples; Assessment of the human, material and wildlife environment of a beekeeping farm; Prevention of the spreading of regulated diseases by implementing and supervising control measures; Prescription of appropriate veterinary drugs; Understanding relevant regulation; Acting as an official vet in the beekeeping field.

The training includes 200 hours of theoretical and practical training: Honey Bee biology and colony life; Practical handling, Sampling, and diagnosis; Health disorders and troubles; Regulations; Implementation of Honey Bee colonies health audits (and sanitary audits of the beekeeping practices and technics).

To date, 289 veterinarians have been graduated. Their diversity and nationwide distribution have created a unique Honey Bee health network. The Ministry of Agriculture officially recognized this program in 2014.

Since 2024, the diploma has been certified by all four French National Veterinary Schools. To improve accessibility and recognition, a submission will be made to the “National Authority for Regulating and Financing Vocational Training” for registration in the “specific repertory”.

The graduated veterinarians (working in private practice, administration, diagnostic laboratories, and pharmaceutical industry) carry out key missions: Protecting and treating Honey Bee colonies; Implementation of studies, Field surveys, and epidemiological surveillance; Self guarding food safety and public health; Protecting the environment; Advancing research and training.