Apimondia News

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Apimondia at the 16th International Conference of the Arab Beekeepers Union

The 16th International Conference of the Arab Beekeepers Union, held under the theme “Arab Bees and Contemporary Transformations: Towards a Sustainable Green Economy”, brought together the beekeeping community in Amman, Jordan.



Dr Fani Hatjina, Chair of the Bee Health Commission, with the delegate of UAE Beekeepers Foundation.

Organised by the Jordanian Beekeepers Union and hosted at the Landmark Hotel, the conference welcomed beekeepers, researchers, academics, experts, policymakers, businesses, investors and institutional representatives from across the Arab world and beyond.

The event provided an important platform for scientific exchange, professional networking and technological innovation, addressing the evolving role of beekeeping in tackling major contemporary challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, food security, rural development and sustainable economic growth.

Delegations from Morocco, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Iraq, Palestine and Jordan contributed to a rich scientific programme, sharing knowledge, research findings and experiences from their respective countries.

The scientific programme was structured around five main themes: honey bee husbandry, modern technologies and sustainable management; honey bee biology, colony health and genetic improvement; plant pollination, ecosystem sustainability and environmental services; honey bee products, quality and value addition; and beekeeping economics, development and public policies.

Apimondia was represented by Dr Fani Hatjina, Chair of the Bee Health Commission, who was invited to deliver two presentations: “Tropilaelaps mercedesae as an Emerging Emergency for Global Apiculture” and “Adverse Effects of Pesticides on Honey Bees and Their Colonies”. Both topics addressed important challenges to honey bee health and the sustainability of beekeeping worldwide.

Several discussion sessions further explored key issues for the sector, including the prospects for sustainable development and economic empowerment of the Arab honey bee sector, scientific evidence and regulatory frameworks for apitherapy, emerging health threats and advances in honey bee genetics, and the impact of wars and conflicts on beekeeping. Other sessions focused on digital marketing and trade in bee products, environmental challenges and natural hazards, and honey quality and authenticity.

Particular interest was expressed by beekeepers in improving queen quality and the characteristics of their bee products. The programme also included a honey competition, an exhibition of beekeeping equipment and products, and practical workshops covering apitherapy, queen insemination, honey testing and cosmetics.



People at the honey bar during the event in Petra

The promotion of young beekeepers and their involvement in international initiatives, particularly the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB), also received considerable attention, highlighting the importance of engaging and supporting the next generation of beekeeping professionals.

A particularly meaningful moment of the conference was the strong expression of solidarity with beekeepers affected by the ongoing war in Palestine, demonstrating the sense of community and mutual support within the Arab beekeeping sector.

The conference also provided an opportunity to look ahead to the international beekeeping community's next major gathering. Participants showed considerable interest in the 50th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress, which will take place in Dubai in November 2027.