BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

Queen-Bee Rearing Project

From subsistence to sustainable commercialisation

INTRODUCTION

There are over 20 000 beekeepers in Zimbabwe with a capacity to produce 1 000 tonnes of honey per annum. Honey products have wide consumer preference and provide sustainable livelihoods to smallholder farmers. Honey is used as food and traditional medicine. The major challenges in beekeeping are pests and diseases, and low hive occupancy, which can be as low as 30%. In order to improve hive occupancy, the University, initiated a project on queen-bee rearing. The University is also working on improving hives to prevent the small hive beetle *Aethina tumida* from entering the hives

VISION

To be a leading supplier of highly active queen-bees

OBJECTIVE

To increase honey production in Zimbabwe through increasing hive occupancy

Uses of honey:
sweetener rich in bioactive substances making sweets and candies source of proteins and vitamins dietary supplement for the elderly tasty alcoholic beverage

Uses of honey by-products
Propolis:- antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant products
Wax: - production of floor polish, candles and cosmetics

ACTIVITIES

Identification of highly active bee-colonies that have a high brood and honey output
Production of highly active queen-bees
Introduce queen-bees into hive colonies
Train students on queen rearing
Training farmers and stakeholders on beekeeping and queen-rearing

PROJECT BENEFITS

Improved honey production; Improved income for beekeeping farmers; Increased availability of bee products; and Employment creation

Promoting Science for Human Development