

BEE KEEPING UPDATE IN UGANDA

A REPORT ON HONEY HARVESTING AND PROCESSING

August 2018 report



Introduction:

UNAD in partnership with DEAFNET is implementing a bee keeping project in Uganda. The project kicked off In October 2015, with a total of 10 deaf persons as pioneers, trained and supplied with start up kits to start bee keeping that led to the formation of Jinja Deaf Bee-keepers Association where members volunteered to provide a site for a single apiary of 20 Bee hives with the main objectives being to:

- To promote the formation of bee keeping improved groups
- To empower the deaf in fighting poverty for self sustainability
- Community awareness and sensitization on the needs of deaf persons (role modelling)

During the month of August, the project experienced one of the milestones of its work by successfully carrying out training of the beneficiaries in bee keeping and honey harvesting thanks to funds generated by DEAFNET- South Africa. This was after a prolonged period without harvesting honey due to lack of knowledge on how to go about it.

From this training, members were able to:

- Understand the process of honey harvesting
- Honey preservation methods
- Honey packing materials
- Different uses of bees by-products eg combs to making candles



Figure 1. Bee keeping beneficiaries watch attentively during the training at YMCA training and conference centre Jinja town.

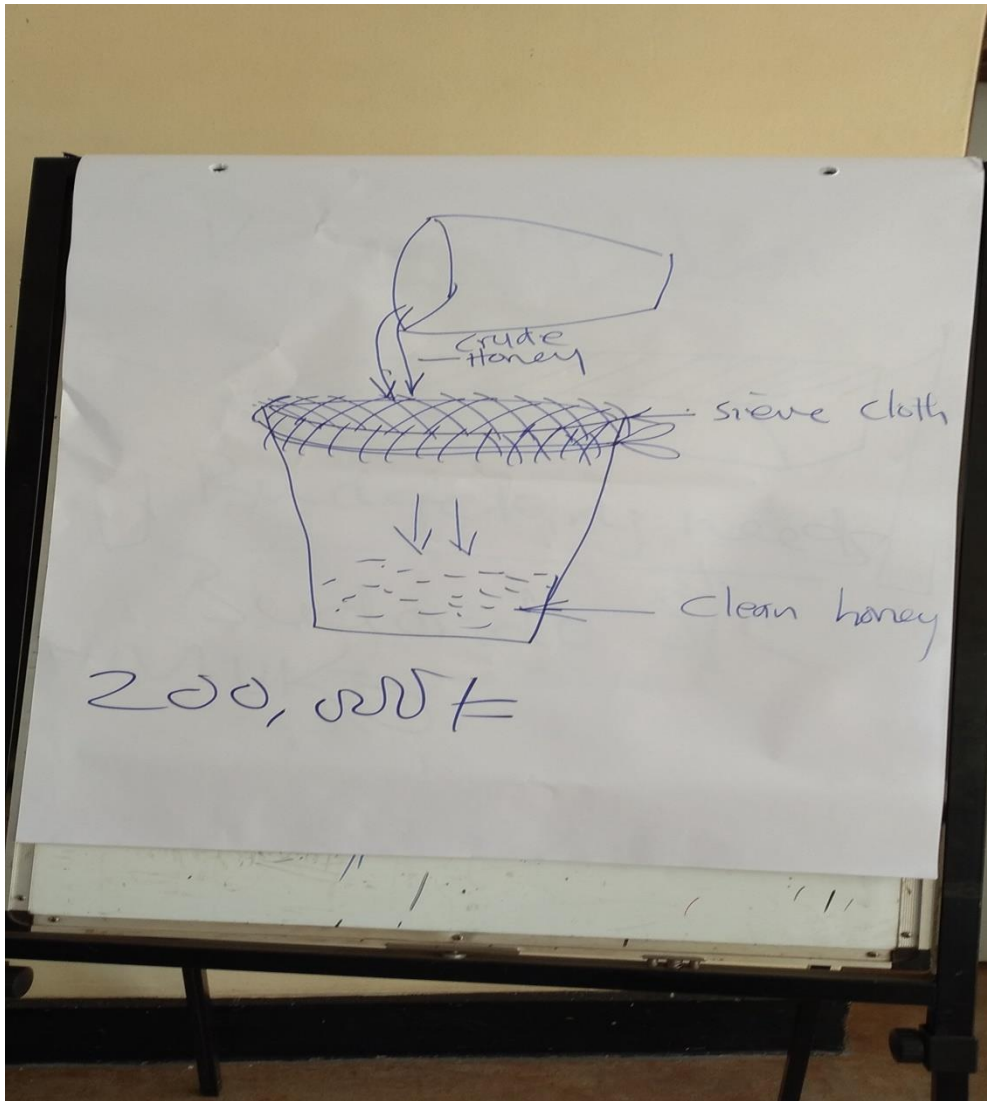


Figure 2: An illustration on how honey is best processed naturally before packing and eventually selling

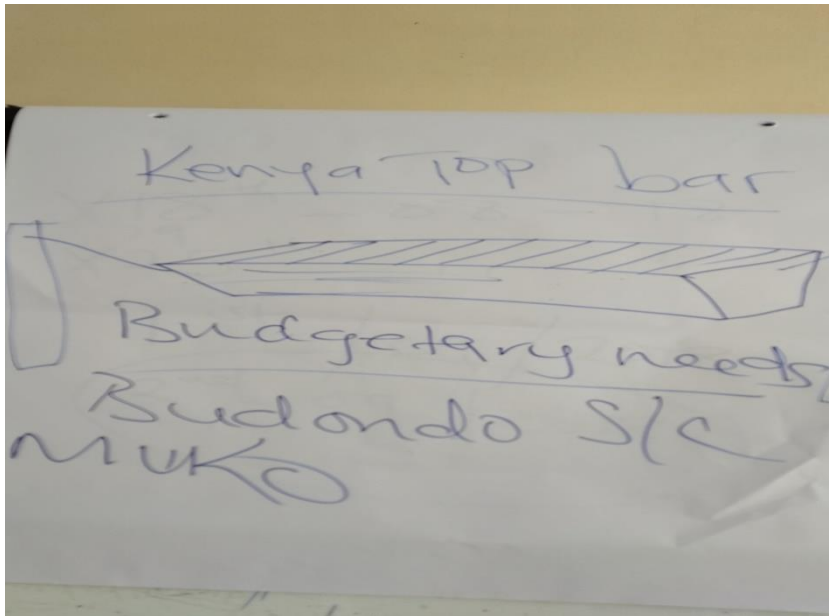


Figure 3: Discussion reached on how to budget and apply for District special grant

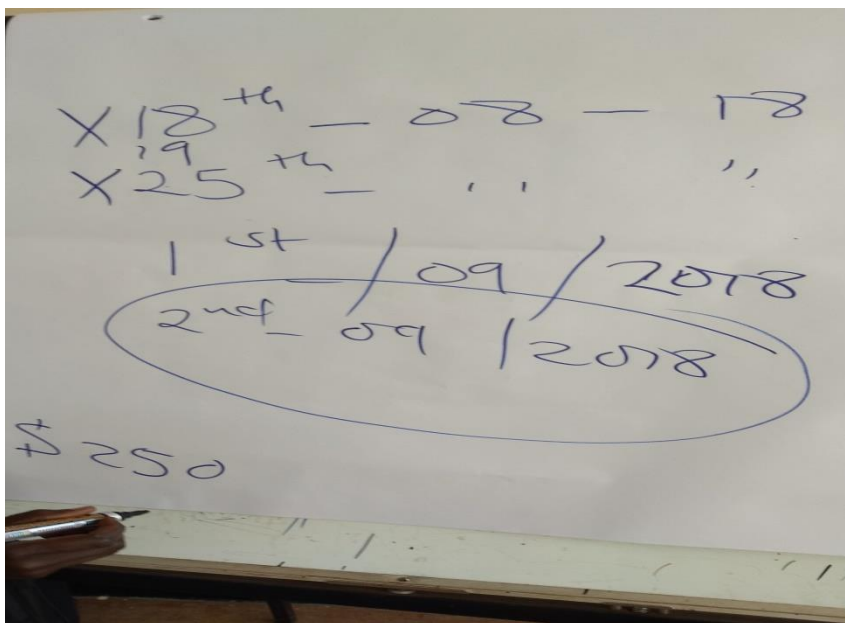


Figure 4: Dates for next meeting discussed and agreed on by all members

ACTION POINTS FROM THE TRAINING

- Group to have another meeting on 2nd September 2018, after the meeting they shall proceed to the apiary to re-organize it because the wind had recently blown out some bee hives

- The project manager to come up with a business plan and share with members as a guiding tool
- The project manager to work on the budget and share with members to see how they can approach the district for support with honey processing and packing equipment (Start-up funds)
- The group to elect committee members and create a structure aimed at overseeing the progress of the project



Figure 5: Members noted that recently, some bee hives were blown by wind during a heavy downpour and it needs their inputs to visit the apiary and erect them again

Challenges:

Like many other projects, we are also facing a number of setbacks which have stumbled on our smooth progress:

- Lack of honey processing equipment
- Coordinating members is also a challenge as it require door to door movements since most of them are poor and can't afford mobile phones while others illiterate
- The continued search for urgent greener pastures is keeping some members too busy to attend to the project demands
- Late release of funds to support monitoring and possible reporting
- Unfavourable weather conditions which breaks posts and make bee hives fall

4.0 Achievements

We have registered a number of achievements as a result of this project and training as indicated below:

- The group got empowered to present a proposal to district for support with start up capital to purchase honey equipment
- Members came together and agreed to continue visiting the apiary here and then
- The youth were equipped with skills on the importance of honey, processing and packing

5.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, the project if given more focus and support is likely to achieve even more in the long run. We thank Deafnet for its brilliant work that is contributing to a larger extent from a minor shell as in one of 112 districts in Uganda.

We commend your work and looks forward to your continued cooperation

Keep it up,

Cheers

*Thank you
Bwire Edgar*