



Beekeeping Development Committee

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Bibek Debroy led beekeeping development committee under the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has made recommendations to enhance the contribution of the beekeeping sector for achieving the target of **doubling of farmer incomes by 2022.**

The committee was set up to identify **ways of advancing beekeeping** in India that can help in improving:

- **Agricultural productivity.**
- Enhancing **employment** generation.
- Augmenting **nutritional security.**
- Sustaining **biodiversity.**

Key Recommendations

- **Institutionalize** the National Bee Board and rename it as the **Honey and Pollinators Board of India** under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare as it will help in advancing beekeeping through multiple mechanisms such as:
 - Setting up of new **integrated bee development centers** and strengthening the existing ones.
 - Creating a honey **price stabilization fund.**
 - **Collection of data** on important aspects of apiculture.
- Simplifying procedures and specify clear standards for **ease of exporting honey** and other bee products.
- Beekeeping should not be restricted to honey and wax only instead marketing of bee products such as **pollen, propolis, royal jelly, and bee venom** can contribute to the income of Indian farmers.
- Recognize honeybees as **inputs to agriculture** and consider landless beekeepers as farmers.
- **Training and development** of beekeepers should be provided by state governments.
- **National and regional infrastructure** should be developed for storage, processing, and marketing of honey and other bee products.

- Plantation of **bee-friendly flora** at appropriate places and engaging women **self-help groups** in managing such plantations.
- Recognition of **apiculture as a subject** for advanced research under the aegis of **Indian Council for Agricultural Research**.

Honey Bee Industry in India

- As per the **Food and Agricultural Organization** database, Indian ranked **eighth** in 2017-18 in the world in terms of honey production while China stood first.
- India has a potential of about **200 million bee colonies** as against 3.4 million bee colonies today.
- Increasing the number of **bee colonies** will not only increase the production of bee-related products but will boost overall **agricultural** and **horticultural productivity**.
- As per the National Bee Board and Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare India's **honey exports** have jumped from 29.6 to 51.5 thousand tonnes between 2014-15 and 2017-18.

National Bee Board (NBB)

- Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) registered National Bee Board as a society under the societies registration Act, 1860 in 2000.
- National Bee Board (NBB) was reconstituted (with the secretary as chairman) in June 2006.
- The main objective of the National Bee Board (NBB) is the overall development of beekeeping by promoting scientific beekeeping in India to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase the honey production for increasing the income of the Beekeepers/ Farmers.
- Presently NBB is implementing National horticulture mission (NHM) and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan State (HMNEM).