
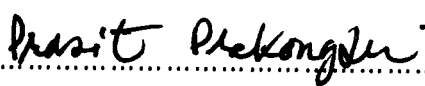


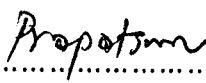
THESIS TITLE : MOTIVATION OF BEEKEEPERS FOR HONEY PRODUCTION
IN THE NORTHEAST OF THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to : 1) identify the socio - economic background of beekeepers. 2) outline the existing conditions used for apiculture, problems and obstacles faced by apiculturists, 3) identify the factors which kept the beekeepers motivated, and 4) compare the motivating factors based on the socio-economic backgrounds of the beekeepers and the conditions used for beekeeping. A total of 118 registered beekeepers in the Northeast in 1996 were selected for this study. To achieve this, multistage sampling was operated and the research data was gathered using direct interviews coupled with specially devised questionnaires. The obtained data was processed and expressed as frequency, percentages, standard deviation and F - test.

The results revealed that 96.6 percent of beekeepers were males and 82.2 percent married. Almost a half or 41.5 percent of these apiculturists graduated with Bachelor's degree or higher. The main occupation of 49.2 percent of these beekeepers was in government services while 81.4 percent of them took beekeeping as a secondary career. On averages, the results also revealed the following information. Beekeeping experience

: 4.6 years; Family size : 4.7 persons; Available labour : 1.6 persons/family; Annual income : 204,132.52 Baht; Number of bee hives : 20.85 hives/case; Investment cost : 732.02 Bahts/hive; Honey yield : 19.30 kg/hive; Income from honey : 41, 496.02 Bahts/year. Other information related to these beekeepers included : 95.8 percent had training background; 94.2 percent used the Italian yellow breed; 41.6 percent purchased the bees from Center for Bee Conservation and Breeding; 48.3 percent bought beekeeping facilities from the Center; 55.9 percent used feed supplements; 78.0 percent examined their bees every 4 - 7 days; 46.6 percent moved their bees to the orchards in other provinces to get sufficient nectar and 68.6 percent moved their bees in search for nectar in other places; 78.8 percent sold the honey at the farms and 55.17 percent set the honey price by their own.

The only problem seriously faced by beekeepers was the epidemic of bee diseases.

It was found that these beekeepers were motivated greatly by 10 factors including 1) positive impression with related government personals, 2) sufficient support of pest control chemicals, 3) sufficient support of technical hand books, 4) suitable climatic and environmental conditions, 5) suitable beekeeping areas, 6) sufficiency of natural nectar, 7) not much area was required, 8) little time and care was needed, 9) little labour was required, and 10) high price of honey i.e. high return from beekeeping.

Significant differences in the motivating factors were detected when comparative assessments were made based on the socio-economic backgrounds and the conditions used for beekeeping and these could be listed out on various basis as follows.

1) Comparision based on ages

A Significant difference was detected regarding the services provided by Center for Bee Conservation and Breeding.

2) Comparison based on education

Significant differences were found in two motivating factors i.e. suitable environments and management simplicity.

3) Comparision based on careers

Four issues of significant difference were noted i.e. the respectability received as

beekeepers; high return from beekeeping, suitable environments and management simplicity.

4) Comparison based the level of return from beekeeping.

Six aspects of significant difference were detected i.e. the pride gained from the success, the respectability received as beekeepers, high return from beekeeping, positive impression with related government personels, the services provided by Center for Bee Conservation and Breeding, suitable environments and management simplicity.

5) Comparison based on duration of experience

Significant differences were recorded in 5 motivating factors i.e. the pride gained from the success, the respectability received as beekeepers, high return from beekeeping, the services provided by Center for Bee Conservation and Breeding, and suitable environments.

6) Comparison based on number of hives

Significant differences were detected in 6 motivating factors i.e. the pride gained from the success, the respectability received as beekeepers, high return from beekeeping, positive impression with related government personels, the services provided by Center for Bee Conservation and Breeding, suitable environments and management simplicity.

7) Comparison based on the distance between the farms and the source of nectar

Significant differences were observed in 5 motivating factors i.e. the respectability received as beekeepers, high return from beekeeping, positive impression with related government personels, the services provided by Center for Bee Conservation and Breeding and marketing availability of the honey.

It is recommended based on the obtained results that: 1) actions should be taken by related government personels so that the beekeepers are enabled to tackle the problem of bee diseases; and 2) related government personels should keep the beekeepers motivated by providing sufficient services and support, keeping the beekeepers highly impressed with their services as well as providing them with pest control chemicals, technical handbooks or technical documents and the information regarding suitable climatic conditions, suitable areas, sources of natural nectar, the return from beekeeping and all the effective management techniques required.