

Problems of Beekeeping in Churu District of Rajasthan

Abstract

Indian economy is mostly based on agricultural activities. Beekeeping or apiculture is a rural industry. Honey bee is a social insect. Mostly Beekeepers are facing many problems. Economic problems, marketing problems, environmental problems, bee diseases, pest and insecticides etc. are main problems of beekeepers in Churu district of Rajasthan. There is not any research center in this area related to beekeeping. In this research paper some problems are identified by the author.

Keywords: Beekeeping, Honey Bee, Problems, Churu, Research Center.

Introduction

India is an agriculture based country, therefore our economy is dependent on agricultural production. The cultivation of bees on a commercial scale for the production of honey and other products is called beekeeping or apiculture. This is an additional source of income for farmers which does not require much investment. Apiculture is commonly known as beekeeping. Beekeeping is based on artificial bee hive colonies. A beekeeper is a person who keeps honey bees. It is popular in rural areas and mostly it's done by men. Bee yard is commonly used for beekeeping boxes. Honey bee is an insect which is the main source of honey production. Honey bees produce commodities such as honey, beeswax, pollen, propolis, and royal jelly. These are useful products medically and economically for human society. Mostly wooden boxes are used as bee hives. Hollow logs, wooden boxes, pottery vessels are also used as artificial bee hives. A colony of bees consists of three castes of bee: Queen bee, worker bee and drone bee.

Success of this industry depends on planning of bee management. There are many problems in this industry.

This research paper identifies the major problems of beekeeping in Churu district of Rajasthan state.

Aim of the Study

1. To identify problems of beekeeping in Churu district of Rajasthan.
2. To give some advice to beekeepers.
3. To give some suggestions for development of beekeeping in Churu district of Rajasthan
4. To be familiar with beekeeping process.

Study Area

Churu district is a district of the Indian state of Rajasthan in western India. Churu district is situated in desert area. The district has an area of approximately 13,858 km². This area is very hot (50⁰c) in summer season and very cold (0⁰ or minus) in winter season.

Taranagar, Sahawa, Churu, Sardarshahar, Sujangarh and surrounding areas of Churu district is study area for this paper.



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Materials and Methods**Data Collection**

In this research paper, primary data collected through questionnaire from randomly selected beekeepers. Survey method, direct observation and face to face talk are other methods adopted by author for this paper.

Results and Discussion

Beekeeping is a very challenging task. Beekeeper has to face many problems; some problems have been identified by the author here.

Poor Marketing

Marketing of honey and other products is very poor in this area.

Lack of Water Areas

There is not any river, lake and water body in this district.

Bee Disease

Bee disease is common problem for beekeepers.

Lack of Information

There is lack of awareness about beekeeping in churu district of Rajasthan. Mostly people have not any knowledge about beekeeping.

Use of Insecticides

Today's mostly farmers use insecticides for high production of their crop. Insecticides are main causes for mortality of bees.

Poor Management

There is no proper management of beekeeping process.

Food of Bees

Honey bees produce honey, in this process they use pollen and nectar from many type of flowers as a food.

Pollen is one of the purest and richest natural foods. Nectar is a sweet fluid found in flowers. Density of greenery is very low in this district so amount of flowers is very low. This is a big problem for beekeeping in this area.

Research Center

There is not any research center in this area to guide beekeepers for proper beekeeping process.

Greenery and Flowers

Churu is a desert area, and there is a very short season of monsoon, so greenery is very poor.

Transportation

Transportation of bees and artificial hives is very costly and problematic.

Family Problems

Beekeeping procedure is done in open areas and outside of villages. Mostly beekeepers has family and many responsibilities but they have to stay far from their families for beekeeping so they face problems to fulfill their responsibilities.

Environmental Problems

Churu is very hot in summer and very cold in winter season so this adverse environment causes problems for beekeeping.

Natural Predators

Some natural predators are present in environment; they eat bees as their food.

Conclusion

In this research it is found that beekeepers face many problems during this work. It is a challenging job for beekeepers. Lack of knowledge, poor management, transportation, and marketing, food of bees, predators, insecticides and environmental problem are identified by researcher.

These are some suggestions for development of beekeeping in churu district-

1. Improvement in plantation.
2. Improvement in horticulture.
3. State government should open a research center for guidance in beekeeping.
4. Improvement in water areas.
5. Govt. should provide some economic schemes.
6. Organise some guidance camp.
7. Govt. should start a honey Processing unit in this area.

Acknowledgement

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