



NEWSLETTER Volume 1, No 1 JUNE, 2014

Message from the editor

Dear members,

the EAB is launching a **Newsletter** which will be published as required – based on information available for distribution, and of interest to you. This newsletter – which will be produced in the English language - will be simple in order to minimize the inputs and costs. It will be distributed electronically to those EAB members who have got an email account. Members without email – account are encouraged to open an account so that they can be included in this new EAB service.

Please send any information which you want to share with other members to

The Editor
EAB NEWS

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or to my address (below)

The EAB will also launch an **APICULTURE NEWS BULLETIN**, with technical and financial support of SNV Ethiopia, which will be published as hard copy and distributed free of charge to members of the sector organizations. Non-members can purchase a copy. Sector operators (for instance input providers) can publish advertisements against payment of fees.

Thank you for your interest and your support.

Dr Juergen Greiling
Editor, EAB News

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1. Ethiopia remains listed for honey export to the EU

Six Ethiopian honey exporters namely: BEZA MAR, COMEL, DIMMA, RAHI MAR and two others have submitted honey samples for residue testing in the context of the 6th Residue Monitoring Plan (RMP) for the export of Ethiopian honey to the EU. No traces of contaminations were found, and the residue monitoring plan was also accepted by the EU. Therefore, Ethiopia remains listed for honey export to the European Union under 2013/422/EU (Commission Implementing Decision of 1st August 2013, amending Decision 2011/163/EU on the approval of plans submitted by third countries in accordance with Article 29 of Council Directive 96/23/EC). **(Dr. J. Greiling)**

2. Significant presence of Ethiopian honey sector in the APIMONDIA, Kiev (Ukraine)

A substantial Ethiopian delegation represented our honey sector during the “world honey event”, this year’s APIMONDIA which took place in Kiev, Ukraine, from the 29th of September to the 4th of October, 2013. The delegation included 4 members of the sector organizations EAB, EBA and EHPBEA, companies and unions, and members of the public sector (ministries and research organizations). They displayed Ethiopian honey and posters and rewarded interested APIMONDIA guests with promotional T- shirts and cotton bags. There was a great interest in the Ethiopian apiculture sector which was, unfortunately, overshadowed by quality problems of a recent Ethiopian honey shipment to Norway. This issue is being followed up. It calls for intensified honey quality screening prior to pooling and processing for export. **(Negash Bekena)**

3. EAB represented the Ethiopian Honey Sector at the GEECON

The German Ethiopian Economic Conference (GEECON '13) took place in Cologne, Germany on the 16th of October, 2013, with a focus on Agro - Processing. This event was jointly organized by Estifanos Samuel, Ethiopian – German Forum e.V. and Mr Alexander Hoeckle of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK) in Cologne (Koeln), Germany.

It was funded by CIM, the BMZ (Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation) and BMELV (Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection). Among the various sponsors was ETHIOPIAN – well represented by the dynamic Director for Germany and Central Europe, Ato Henock Lemma Nigatu, who gave an excellent overview of the airline’s development, plan and role to play in the economic development (import/export) of the country.

The GEECON 2013 was held in the light of Ethiopia’s rapid development, considering the recent visits of top German politicians in Ethiopia (Federal President Gauck and Minister for Agriculture Mrs Aigner). The conference aimed at strengthening the existing positive bilateral relationship between Ethiopia and Germany. While last year’s GEECON focused on Green Energy and Agro-Processing, the GEECON 2013 was concerned with the Manufacturing Industry (leather and textile) as well as Agro-Processing. The EAB’s Advisor Dr J. Greiling highlighted the sector with a presentation “From 0 to 300,000 (kg) in five years – Ethiopia’s honey export to the EU”, made various promotional materials available and interacted with individuals and companies who are interested in the sector. A lively presentation by Yohannes Tilahun, Senior Director Public Private Partnership, introduced the Agricultural Transformation Agency, ATA.

An estimated 80 to 100 participants attended the GEECON 2013 – high level politicians including H.E. Fesseha Asghedom Tessema, Ambassador of the FRDRE, Mrs Tenambergen Saida Hassanbahdon of the Embassy of the Republic of Djibouti, the Ethiopian Vice Consul General Ato Teferi Tadesse Heigyane from Frankfurt, the Ethiopian Honorary Consuls from

Cologne and Bremen, colleagues from CIM & GIZ, representatives of consultancy firms and members of the business community. **(Dr. J. Greiling)**

4. First API DIRECTORY published

The EAB, with financial support of UNDP and in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, published the first API DIRECTORY of Ethiopia listing important sector actors in the various regions of the country. Editors are **Solomon Mengesha**, Dr. Juergen Greiling and Negash Bekena. **(Dr. J. Greiling)**

5. Brief MSP updates

Multi stakeholders platform events have been conducted in Amhara, Southern and Oromia regions on September 6, October 10 and October 17, 2013 and in Tigray on January 17, 2014 respectively. The purpose of such events has been mainly to share experiences & get updates on best practices, discuss on strategic and policy issues and deliberate on pertaining matters related to the beekeeping sub-sector at the respective regions.

Participants were bee keepers, private sector (bee keeping companies), professionals, researchers, NGOs, and concerned experts and officials from the concerned public institutions. AGP-AMDE, GRAD and ASPIRE project have funded the cost of the events at the respective regions.

The platforms were beneficial in addressing the set event objectives. More information is available from the EAB's Regional Managers

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(Negash Bekena)

6. Gender and Value Chain Training workshop

A "Gender in Value Chain" (GVCD) training workshop has been conducted at ILRI Addis Ababa from October 02 to 04 2013. The training event was organized jointly by SNV-Ethiopia, Hivos People Unlimited, ICCO cooperation, and Agri- PRO Focus. The objective of the event was mainly to introduce participants to guiding concepts and strategies for gender inclusive value chain development, and identify challenges/ gender based constraints and sort out possible solutions for 'own' value chains.

The training event was beneficial for the trainees in bringing insight into key concepts for analyzing agricultural value chains from a gender perspective, share a common vision and a clear understanding of the principles underlying the GVCD coaching track, and selection of tools, based on own project cases. **(Guta Olana)**

7. Illubabor - Supe Beekeepers Association

Supe is located in the western parts of Ethiopia in Illubabor zone 640 km away from Addis Ababa through Metu and 540 km through Ghimbi and Nekempte. The **Supe Beekeepers Association** (SBA) was organized by the Ethiopian Apiculture Board (EAB) with financial support from the Swiss "Learning for Life" foundation. SBA comprises 30 members out of which 20 are traditional beekeepers with rich indigenous knowledge, two potential women beekeepers and the rest are teachers and jobless graduates. Supe is one of the suitable homes of honey bees in Ethiopia.

Beekeeping is one of the activities which can be practiced to improve the livelihood of the households. The target area is full of bee flora and very suitable for apiculture activities. The Supe Beekeepers Association in particular, is meant to be a model apicultural practitioner in

the area by integrating and diversifying other crop and livestock activities into the apiculture. The intervention has given more attention to local farmers with basic and indigenous knowledge of beekeeping activities. Training was given to the members of the association on introduction to apiculture, bee forage production, bees and beehives management, bee breeding and harvesting techniques. All necessary equipment was purchased and provided to the association by the Ethiopian Apiculture Board, under an agreement with the “Learning for Life” foundation. The group is now establishing a “honey house”, a simple processing / cleaning and storage facility using local materials to the extent possible. From June 17 – 21, EAB colleagues will give training on honey harvesting and post-harvest treatment. The association will then partner with processing/exporting companies. **(Solomon Mengesha)**

8. Handover of equipment to newcomer beekeepers - Establishment of the Ethio – German Beekeeping Fostership Programme

The fostership programme was first initiated in support of the ASTU (Adama Science and Technology University) female student Honey Club members. ASTU female student Honey Club was established in November, 2012, with 78 female and 2 male students by the Ethiopian Apiculture Board’s Oromia chapter. The objective of the establishment of the club is to upgrade apicultural skills of the members that help to involve in apiculture business after graduation and to participate in environment improvement programmes through bee forage production.

The club members are coming from different parts of the country, so that students can be used as a vehicle to disseminate advanced beekeeping practices (ToT) to the grass root level all over the country when they go back.

After the establishment of the club, the EAB prepared a project proposal and submitted it to the German Embassy in Addis Ababa. The Germany Embassy supported the Assela School of Agriculture with necessary materials and training of Honey Club members on bee management, queen rearing technology, honey harvesting, pre-and post - harvest honey handling, quality of honey and bee forage management. Successful participants were awarded a certificate.

10 graduate students were sponsored by German beekeepers in the new fostership programme jointly established by the EAB and the German Bee Journal. Each of the beneficiaries got equipment worth 200 Euro from their foster parent in Germany.



With this money allocated to them modern beehives, bee veils, overalls and other protective materials were bought and provided to them. In order to scale – up the fostership programme, German beekeepers from all over the country established an NGO in Germany to support Ethiopian graduate students through the Ethiopian Apiculture Board in the future. This new NGO is called “Beekeepers for Beekeepers in Ethiopia” (or “Imker für Imker in Äthiopien” in German). We are grateful to Mrs Silke Beckedorf, Editor in-Chief of the German Bee Journal for her untiring support of this initiative.

Five of the graduate students who received the donation returned to their home areas in Amhara region and, with support from the EAB, established the “JACARANDA Female Graduate Beekeepers Cooperative” and were provided with a site for the establishment of an apiary by the local government. The other four graduated members of the ASTU club are living in and around Addis Ababa. One started the apiary in the family home in Alemgena, while three others have not yet received the land from the government but keep their bees with a women beekeepers association (W/ro Aster Charinet) in Addis Ababa, Gullele sub-city until the land has become available. One young beekeeper started his own apiary on family land in Assela.

The ASTU female students Honey Club is the 1st of its kind, and it will be used as a model to establish such clubs in other universities. Based on the potential of the areas and on the State Minister of Higher Education Dr. Kaba Urgessa’s recommendation, and taking into account the limited funds available, Jimma , Mekele and Bahir Dar universities were selected for the second round to establish student honey clubs. The 2nd round of female graduate beekeepers training will be conducted with 29 candidates, again in Assela, from February 18th to March 9th, 2014. If financial support can be secured, the initiative may cover all potential areas of the country. **(Solomon Mengesha)**

9. ToT – Training of Trainers – Ambo University (1); HBRC (2)

The **ASPIRE Minimum Package Extensive Training of Trainers** was conducted at Ambo University from May 27 – June 10, 2013. This first round of training was organized to provide TOT for processors’ staff, respective zone representative experts, and private and public service providers in the four regions. The training focused on business and technical aspects to assure the delivery of quality and the required package of training for beekeepers’ transformation. The training encompassed business skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and all major aspects of beekeeping technical training. The training took a total of 15 days with enough practical exposure.

The second training (ToT) round was conducted at Holetta (HBRC) in the mid of November, 2013. It was organized for processor’s staff, sector government experts and public service providers in four target regions. 22 trainees, 8 trainers and 2 facilitators participated in the ToT.

The training was organized in order to broaden the base of better trainers in the target regions to assure improved support to beekeepers to move from the traditional to the semi-commercial level. There was specific emphasis to provide the future trainers with the required competency in technical as well as business

The following photographs illustrate



Production of low-cost improved hives with local materials



The colony transfer discussion

(Guta Olana)

Input providers corner

The EAB encourages input providers to use the “**box**” (below) which will be available in each issue of the NEWSLETTER to present their organization and to promote their products. This is a free service of the EAB to the input providers on the one hand, and to interested buyers on the other.

Bee colonies and wax foundations available

SYE Agro-Industry PLC is a newly established agribusiness in Debre Zeit. Contacts are Simeret Lulekal (0911 – 111892) and Dr Henok Lulekal (0912 204528). The email address is simalem111@yahoo.com SYE Agro Industry has got colonies and quality wax foundations for sale; colony sales can include the service of transportation and transfer. Please contact W/r Simeret for details.

ETHIOPIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION: Training Manuals available!

The EBA has got the following training manuals available:

1. In Amharic, Oromifa and Tigrigna
 - Beginners.....ETB 150
 - Medium Level.....ETB 180
 - Advanced Level.....ETB 200
2. In English
 - Advanced Level.....ETB 200

Contact: Ato Shaul (EBA Manager) 011 5 540756 / 0911 557909

Wax foundations: COMEL PLC

COMEL Pvt Ltd Co has got quality wax foundation sheets for sale

Size: 18cm X 38cm
Package: 33 pcs in each paper box.
Price: ETB660/box of 33pcs plus VAT
Delivery: Addis Ababa / Mekelle

Contact: COMEL Pvt.Ltd.Co
P.O.Box 0038 Mekelle
Tel 034 4 405888
Email comelpvtltdco@yahoo.com

10. Upcoming events

APIEXPO AFRICA 2014 Zimbabwe (more on the API EXPO 2014 in the next newsletter):
October 2014

11. Next EAB NEWS

....will be published in the third quarter of 2014 and will deal, among others, with the following topics

Briefing on upcoming APIEXPO AFRICA 2014 Zimbabwe
Status of graduate training, honey clubs etc
Grant update – ASPIRE PCU.....

...and other news which the members want to share. Please send your contributions to the editor – see page 1.