



# The API News

The API News is a biannual sector newsletter published by the **ETHIOPIAN APICULTURE BOARD**

Volume 2 Number 1 March 2015



The Vice Consul of the Consulate General of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Frankfurt / Germany, H.E. Ato Ketema Haile Minuta (third from right) visits the Ethiopian booth at the BIOFACH (2015)

## Ethiopian Apiculture Sector participated in a leading Trade Fair for Organic Food

**BIOFACH** – the world's leading Trade Fair for Organic Food - The market for organic products in Europe is growing rapidly and steadily. This was just the right scenario for presenting organic Ethiopian honey. A total of ten Ethiopian honey exporting companies were presenting their products and engaging into new business contacts during the 2015 BIOFACH from February 10 to 13 at Nuremberg, Germany.

According to the BIOFACH organizers, “organic” is more than a **label** or **certification**: organic stands for quality and conviction – for the responsible use of nature’s resources. BIOFACH 2015 in the **Exhibition Centre Nuremberg** was the place where people shared their passionate interest in **organic food**, got to know each other and exchanged views, and this has been going on for more than 25 years! Visiting professionals from all over the world met **organic producers** from the international organic market and were inspired by the sector’s latest international trends. Over 44,000 trade visitors from 136 countries travelled to this year’s annual get-together for the organic industry in Nuremberg.

*(continued to page 4)*

*The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the EAB*

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# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

# የአዘጋጁ መልእክት

Dear reader,

The Ethiopian Apiculture Board (EAB) is pleased to present the first 2015 issue (Vol. 2 No 1) of the API NEWS to you. We published 2 issues (Vol. 1 No's 1 & 2) in 2014 and aim at 4 issues during 2015.

An Editorial Board will be established in order to achieve a wider coverage of the sector – and to share the increasing work load. We invited members of the other sector organizations (EBA and EHBPEA) and colleagues from the Holetta Bee Research Centre to join the Editorial Board.

If you have anything to share please send it to the following e-mail address: [juergen.greiling@cimonline.de](mailto:juergen.greiling@cimonline.de) or drop a hard copy at the EAB's office. Special thanks to all contributors of this issue.

Let us all work together in order to establish the first ever regular publication of the Ethiopian Apiculture Sector. Input providers (apiculture equipment), service providers (public partners, laboratories etc) and donors are kindly requested to use the API NEWS for advertising their products and services, and announcing their programmes.

Enjoy reading and give us our feedback. Don't forget to visit our home page:

[www.ethioapiboard.org](http://www.ethioapiboard.org)  
(NEW!)

Dr Juergen Greiling

Senior Advisor, EAB & Editor

ውድ አንባቢያን፡-

የኢትዮጵያ ንብ ሀብት ቦርድ የ2015 እ.ኤ.አ የመጀመሪያውን ዜና-ንብ እትም ክፍል ሁለት ጅምር አንድ ለእናንተ ሲያቀርብ ደስታ ይሰመዋል ።

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ወይም ደግሞ በአካል ማገኘት ለምትፈልጉ የኢትዮጵያ ንብ ሀብት ቦርድ ቢሮ ቦሌ ማተሚያ ቤት ፊት ለፊት ከሚገኘው ህንፃ የኢንዱስትሪ ልማት ቀጠናዎች አራተኛ ፎቅ በመምጣት ማቀበልና መነጋገር ትችላላችሁ። ለዚህ ዝግጅት አስተዋጽኦ ላደረጉ ሁሉ ልዩ ምስጋና እናቀርባለን።

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መልካም የንባብ ጊዜ!!

አዘጋጅ፡-

ዶ/ር ዩርገን ግራይሊንግ

የኢትዮጵያ ንብ ሀብት ቦርድ ዋና አማካሪ



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## Impressum

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Dessie Mengie, (AAU)

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We are indebted to Meseret Kebede, (SNV) for her guidance and help in producing this edition of Api News.



# QUALITY TASK FORCE : Up date

## Quality Management Manuals

The Task Force (TF) “**QUALITY AND SAFETY OF BEE PRODUCTS AND INPUTS**” was established on July 30th, 2013 following preparatory meetings and based on a letter of H.E. the Minister of Agriculture to selected national organizations who are expected to contribute towards the objective of the Task Force (TF). It contributes to the quality and safety of bee products and inputs.

The selected national organizations responded by nominating permanent members to the TF. Ato Gezahegne Tadesse (MoA) was elected as a chairman while the EAB was nominated as the TF secretariat with Dr Juergen Greiling and Ato Solomon Mengesha being permanent members of the TF. The TF decided to invite SNV Ethiopia to attend all TF meetings as guest and also included SNV Ethiopia in the distribution list for invitations, minutes and documents for the TF sessions.

The TF prioritized activities / projects which address the quality and safety of apiculture products in order to protect local and foreign consumers. The prioritized activities were submitted to donors for funding. The first activity for which funding could be secured is entitled: “**Developing a national quality management manual, possibly in separate volumes (from the production to marketing or consumer), and a national Food Safety Code of Practice**”.

The TF developed Terms of Reference for a national consultancy and the project was advertised in the local media through the donor (SNV). Interested bidders have been short-listed and an agreement for the project will be made within the month of March, 2015

## Adulteration Working Group(AWG)

This working group was established by the TF in order to address the ever more important issue of adulteration. Efforts will in the first place be focused on honey (later on wax) as the consumers are more likely to be affected by the adulteration of honey

(wax is practically not consumed except as a coating of sweets (caramella and cheese).

Members of the AWG come from the MoA, EAB (secretariat), the processors (COMEL), the research organizations (Holetta Bee Research Centre) and the service providers/laboratories (BLESS). The AWG met on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for the first time and covered the following agenda:

1. **Stock taking: documented case of honey adulteration in Ethiopia**
2. **TOR of the Adulteration Working Group: discussion of the draft and approval**
3. **Action Plan**

It was agreed that key facts & components of a quality assurance system (addressing both local consumers and the export sector) targeting adulteration should include actions at four (4) different levels:

1. **Sector / policy level**
  - “**Stock taking**”: past and
  - **current cases of adulteration**
  - **Addressing the delays in issuance of a regulation (through MoA)**
2. **Producer & consumer knowledge development level & traceability**
  - **Information to VC actors (in local languages, using different media) about good practices, legal background and fines**
  - **Capacity development in record**

keeping and traceability (reference lists, reference samples)

3. **Product testing level**
  - **Random sampling (possibly by FMHACA): signal to VC actors that testing exists & offenders will be located and prosecuted**
  - **Laboratory strengthening**
  - **Typical regional honey (minimum: pollen & sugar) profiles to be established**
  - **Sugar profiles to be established for randomly collected samples**
  - **Comparing sugar profiles of random samples against typical sugar profiles, for adulteration indication & and pollen profiles against typical regional pollen profiles in order to detect “regional adulteration”**
4. **Export procedures level**
  - **Pooled samples to be “cleared” by accredited lab prior to shipment**
  - **Customs authority to demand proof of “clearance” (certificate of the company that exports the consignment) in addition to other certificates such as phytosanitary certificate.**

The Adulteration Working Group will meet again in April, 2015 and discuss the road map for the implementation of prioritized actions. (JG)

## A CASE FROM ASPIRE

**Fekede Anbase:** *A Beekeeper from Metu Wereda*

Obbo Fekede Anbase (aged 37) lives with a family of five members. He is also earning his life from agricultural activities. Prior to the ASPIRE intervention, Fekede owned 38 traditional hives (and no transitional and framed hives). After getting the skill training, he could construct 6 (six) transitional hives. At present five of the transitional hives are occupied with bees. He harvested 40 kg of honey (20 kg each of the two transitional beehives) during the last harvest season. Fekede indicates that he couldn't afford to buy framed beehives due to high price. However, he has a plan to increase transitional hives from six to 15 (fifteen). (GO)



## Ethiopian Apiculture Board participated ...

(continued from page 1)

With an increase of 5 % in visitor numbers, BIOFACH, the World's leading Trade Fair for Organic Food, and VIVANESS, the International Trade Fair for Natural Personal Care, once again confirmed that Nuremberg is the meeting place for the organic world. A total of 2,348 exhibitors, 202 of whom appeared at VIVANESS, presented products and services to buyers from the food and cosmetics industries.

The market for organic products in Europe is growing rapidly and steadily: in 2014, German households spent 4.8 % more on organic food and drinks than in the year before, with sales amounting to just under EUR 8 billion according to the German Federation of the Organic Food Industry (BÖLW).

This was just the right scenario for presenting organic Ethiopian honey. A total of ten Ethiopian honey exporting companies were presenting their products and engaging into new business contacts. A number of them were promoted through the ASPIRE programme: Apinec, Babichi, Comel, Pegasi, Sheka Nordic, South Federation (SRFCF), Yerkisho and Zembaba Union, whereas others such as Dejene General Agro – Industry and Bezamar Agro Industries participated using other support or their own means. SNV, the Netherlands Development Organization and funding agency of the ASPIRE programme, was also present. All of them consider the participation in the BIOFACH a great success.

Ato Solomon Mengesha, who represented the EAB during the fair, gave us the following feedback: *“As an EAB representative at BIOFACH, I can say that this fair in Nuremberg was the greatest place and opportunity for Ethiopian companies to deal with EU companies. Most of them used this opportunity to sign agreements with the big German company called TUCHEL & SOHN”*. The Ethiopian Consul (pictured on page1) appreciated the apiculture sector which, year after year, represents Ethiopia as one of the lead-

ing “honey countries” of the world in Nuremberg, since no any other Ethiopian commodities were presented (but good Ethiopian coffee was served in the honey booth...).

## ASPIRE: Grant scheme

### Up-date

The ASPIRE (Apiculture Scaling up Programme for Income and Rural Employment) project has been implemented over the past two years. The programme works in four regions (Oromia, SNNPR, Amhara and Tigray) within 52 weredas. It is pro poor project. By its nature the program works in a competition based approach. ASPIRE has three facilities namely Grant Scheme, Guarantee Scheme, and Technical Support. As far as the first working pillar -Grant Scheme- is concerned, during the last two years 421 (four hundred and twenty one) private companies, Unions, Honey Cooperatives, beekeeping input suppliers, sector offices and associations competed for the grant facilities and 102 (one hundred and two) applications got acceptance.

The Ethiopian apiculture sector has a high potential to contribute to income generation and employment creation and also to supplement other economic activities in the rural and urban areas of Ethiopia. However, the country is not benefiting from the huge potential that exists in the apiculture sector due to its low productivity which led to low utilization of hive products both in the domestic and export markets. Therefore, to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the sector, the ASPIRE program in collaboration with the partners (grantees) is trying to better utilize the sector's opportunities.

(to be continued on page 5)

## Bees for Development;

### Technical Bee Notes:

Here is the latest edition of our Technical Bee Notes.

1. Results of Bees for Development Survey. Thank you to all 596 people who replied to our online survey of Bees for Development Information Services! The results of the survey are available on our website. All who responded were entered into a random draw to win a T Shirt.

2. TECA Beekeeping Exchange Group. To see the contributions and a summary of the recent moderated discussion on Training new beekeepers: imparting life skills - effectively and affordably go to TECA

3. Interested to participate in the Apimondia Congress in South Korea in September 2015? Travel awards are available for potential participants from developing countries. To see eligibility criteria, application process and deadline go to the website.

4. Native Bees event in Mexico. IX Mesoamerican Congress on Native Bees 20-26 April, San Cristobal de las Casas.

5. Grants for ecologists in Africa. The British Ecological Society offers grants for innovative ecological research. The grant is designed to develop ecological skills, experience and knowledge and helps to foster connections with other ecologists.

6. Funding for Women Conservationists in the Congo Basin 2015. WWF-US supports women conservationists in the Congo Basin for short-term training and for academic and technical degrees in conservation. Applicants must be citizens and permanent residents of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon or Republic of Congo.

7. Do you need photographs of bees for educational purposes? VITA Europe has a free gallery of images available. You need to register to access the gallery. **(JG)**

## Organic Farming DAAD

### Alumni Seminar

An “Organic Farming (Organic bee-keeping) Seminar” was held from February 2nd to 11th at the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart (Germany) for DAAD sponsored alumni. 56 former Hohenheim scholars (among them Solomon Mengesha, EAB) participated and visited the BIOFACH organic fair in Nuremberg after the course. Solomon noted some important facts and principles, and also shares with us information on EU labels for organic products and organic farming associations in Germany.

- “Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.” (IFOAM, 2008)
- IFOAM: International Foundation of Organic Agriculture Movements: world umbrella organization of all organic farming associations and initiatives (800 members in 120 countries)
- The Principle of Health: Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.
- The Principle of Ecology: Organic Agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.
- The Principle of Fairness: Organic Agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.
- The Principle of Care: Organic Agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

EU Label for organic products:

European consumers fully trust the products with the following labels



EU-Organic Bio Logo introduced in 2010 and based on the EU regulations (EG) No.843/2007

German label for products produced according to the EU regulation

Demeter: (biodynamic) originating from Rudolf Steiner's „Agricultural Course” held in 1924

Naturland founded 1982, focused on organic farming abroad, active in Certification **(SOL)**

### Strategic Plan to Develop.....

*(continued from page 7)*

The major lesson learnt during the experience sharing visit was the fact that every job, every responsibility, every occupation is not only a source of income (employment) but a source of satisfaction and meaning of life. Everyone to whom the team talked was a knowledgeable, passionate, responsible person, who loves what he/she does. Everyone in the honey value chain was indeed effective and dynamic.

There was a strong symbiotic relationship between research, beekeepers and their associations and extension services. There was a vertical coordination between universities, research centers, Ministry of Agriculture, beekeepers associations and extension system, at higher level.

The strongest feature was the horizontal coordination at all levels of everyone, irrespective of the vertical organizational structure. People are mainly responsible to their jobs not to the hierarchy of authorities. The formal hierarchical accountability is the minimum requirement that everyone may adhere to. In actual everyone operates and performs to his/her best level. To that end, there is a strong, smooth and effective communication with everyone at every-time and condition with no hindrances of communications. Vertical structures are not excuses for creating organizational silos, rather they are agents of both vertical and horizontal communication and smooth and up-to-date flow of data and information throughout the system. **(JG)**

### ASPIRE: Grant scheme....

*(continued from page 4)*

*The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the EAB*

S. N	Grant Categories	Accepted Applicants (3 rounds)
1	B2B linkage	41
2	Sector Strengthening	48
3	Input Supply	13

**Table 1. Grant winner application summary**

The monitoring reports shows there are some innovative and fast adopter beekeepers who are showing promising new achievements. Even though it is too early to undertake an evaluation, the changes observed during the regular monitoring of the programme indicate that ASPIRE is on the right track. **(TT)**

### Mettu Training

#### Foster ship Initiative

The “Foster ship Initiative” is a programme by which European beekeepers support young Ethiopian (predominantly graduate female) beekeepers with a “starter kit” and advice (they establish email communication), which enables them to start their own beekeeping. Foster parents and foster children are connected following a training in apiculture, by the EAB and partners, of female BSc students who study agriculture, natural resource management or similar subjects.

The Ethiopian Apiculture Board, in partnership with Mettu University (Illubabor), conducted the third training course of female graduates in beekeeping in Mettu during December 2014 and January 2015. For Mettu University, it was the first course of this type as the previous courses were held in Assela School of Agriculture (then under Adama University). **(SOL)**



## Potential Market Access Opportunity for products

Fair Trade is a well-known concept in Europe and America; the concept is slowly catching up with producers in the South. Other than FLO, World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) is the other well-known global Fair Trade organization.

Membership to WFTO is on the basis of compliance to 10 Fair Trade Principles. Invariably, compliance to the criteria is standard globally, but is sensitive to the local context.



WFTO is currently keen to grow its membership in sectors that deal with products of high value such as HONEY, because of the growing Fair Trade market for such products. So take advantage now. For more information please contact them in e-mail; [info@wfto-africa.org](mailto:info@wfto-africa.org). You may also visit [www.wfto.com](http://www.wfto.com) or [www.wfto-africa.org](http://www.wfto-africa.org). They are available for technical support to take you through the membership process. **(WFTO)**

## LABORATORY ASSESSMENT IN PROGRESS

**The lack of laboratory capacity in the country severely affects the development of a quality infrastructure for honey and other hive products.**

The members of the national apiculture stakeholders, through the 25th Multi Stakeholder Platform Meeting conducted in June 2014, requested that a residue laboratory gap analysis & accreditation as well as a regional honey laboratory gap analysis & upgrading were to be conducted (action points). The Task Force on "Quality of Bee Products and Inputs", in consultation with the stakeholders, identified laboratories to be assessed and undertook the first steps. Consequently, an international consultant has undertaken a gap assessment in the selected Ethiopian laboratories. The laboratories (located in the capital Addis Ababa and in different regions) were assessed in view of their capability to be internationally accredited for residue analysis and full honey analysis, respectively.

The first impression of the consultant is reflected in the table below:

Laboratory and site	Quick impressions
<b>BLESS Legetafo</b>	Private entity; high level of sustainability; competent staff
<b>EACE Addis Ababa</b>	One stop centre, low technical competence; old equipment
<b>Livestock Agency Mekele</b>	Only space available, no equipment; Region has high potential
<b>Hawassa University</b>	Inadequate equipment & technical competence, could serve southern region which has high honey potential
<b>JIJE Alemgena</b>	Private entity; high QMS, accommodation rented; expansion not guaranteed
<b>EMDIDI Bishoftu</b>	Small dairy lab; low on all aspects; major lab investment needed
<b>MoA Vet Lab Kaliti</b>	Strong on equipment; good lab environment; partial human resource competence; very low on QMS
<b>FMHACA Addis Ababa</b>	Strong on pharmaceuticals but weak on agri-food testing
<b>Bahir Dar University</b>	Strong in terms of equipment; for honey analysis wrt heavy metals (ICP-OES)
<b>Bee Research Center Holetta</b>	At a higher level of honey analysis compared to other labs; strong in research and training; has potential to be CoE

The consultant prepared detailed draft reports for each laboratory visited, using the following format:

### FINDINGS OF THE ASSESSMENT

#### Scope of Analysis

- Details on a scope of analysis performed
- Details of analysis currently not performed
- Laboratory Assessment and Gap Analysis
- Technical competence; Personnel (staff), Accommodation and Environmental Conditions, Test methods and Method validation, Equipment, Measurement traceability, Sampling and storage, Quality assurance, Quality assurance

#### • Accreditation scope

#### • Capacity Gaps

All laboratories received the draft report for comments. The consultant included the comments in his final report (which is ready) and, based on this, is now formulating his recommendations.

With the final report and the "roadmap" (recommendations), the EAB and sector partners will be in a position to support selected laboratories in addressing the identified gaps. While the laboratories will have to fill the "hardware gaps" themselves, partners and donors could extend help in qualifying technicians; establishing procedures, Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) and validation procedures; assisting in the provision of standards and similar "soft" gaps. All of this will be discussed by the key actors once the final recommendations are available. **(JG)**



# Strategic Plan to Develop a Globally Competitive Honey Industry in Ethiopia

The Ministry of Industry of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia commissioned the preparation of a “**Strategic Plan to Develop a Globally Competitive Honey Industry in Ethiopia**”. The plan was developed by a research team from Addis Ababa University, with the following members: Ato.Tsegabirhan W/Giorgis (Economist ,Research Project Coordinator); Dr.Teklehaimanot Haileselassie (PhD in Biotechnologist) and Dr. Ashenafi Mengistu (PhD in Animal Science). The roadmap for the strategy has been presented, discussed and shaped in a workshop held at Ghion Hotel. A Steering Committee to be chaired by EMDIDI Director has been established. The EAB has been given the vice chair and secretary position in the Steering Committee.

A draft strategic document prepared by the team was presented to a Steering Committee constituted from the apiculture sector stakeholders in a meeting at the EAB’s office. The document was then enriched with valuable comments and inputs that emanated during this meeting. The revised version was discussed again in a consultative meeting organized by the Ethiopian Meat and Dairy Industry Development Institute (EMDIDI) on March 4, 2015, at Titas Hotel in Adama, Ethiopia. The participants of the workshop hailed from honey and beeswax exporters, relevant government bodies, non-governmental organizations and associations. The team has benefited from the outcomes of this workshop as well.

## The team summarized the strategic directions as follows:

The strategic directions would be tailored to hive selection and colony management, design, development and management of apiary site, product differentiation and the development of the necessary quality assurance system along the entire value chain, and knowledge generation and dissemination system across the diverse agro-ecologies of the country.

### 1. Hive selection and colony management: the focus should be on the

human capital not on mere distribution of the hives, which has been the case so far in the country. We urge the government to seriously consider the selection and promotion of the 4th type of hive (“Becho hive”). The government should and can manage the necessary procedures in validating the choice and promotion of the bee hive, instead of giving it up to the bureaucratic procedures which is consuming a lot of time.

### 2. Design, development and management of apiary site: aiming for equally productive multiple harvesting. Apiary site development mechanisms may involve, soil and water conservation, rainwater harvesting, composting and application of a mix of organic and inorganic fertilizers, selection of the mix of bee forage, (herbs, shrubs and trees).

### 3. Product differentiation and upgrading: this requires developing market orientation of beekeepers. Once beekeepers improved productivity per super, per harvest, and manage with multiple harvesting, then the extension service should

promote the idea of market-based production, which aims to exploit the scope for product differentiation and upgrading in the industry.

The research team underlined the importance of an experience sharing visit to a leading EU honey producer, during which the team identified the following areas as crucial for the development of the apiculture sector, and in turn included them in the strategic plan:

- Organic bee products: they are no more niche markets
- Highly differentiated market for bee products
- Well established and strong regional research centers
- Beekeepers Associations
- Quality Standards
- Well-Established Market for Beekeeping Inputs
- Beekeeping as Hobby and Sole Business
- Industry working culture

(to be continued on page 5)

## Mettu University Female Graduates Trained by Ethiopian Apiculture Board with a financial support of Learning for Life Foundation Switzerland (read on page 5)



The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the EAB



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## Upcoming Events

EAB presents up coming events for the next months.....

Date	Event
April 16-18, 2015	African MSP EC Meeting (Nairobi)
June, 2015 (tentative)	National MSP, in Addis Ababa Organized by EAB
(to be determined)	<b>Regional MSPs</b> Amhara, in Bahir Dar Oromia, in Holletta SNNPR, Hawassa Tigray, in Mekele
November, 2015	African MSP, Nairobi Kenya
December, 2015 (tentative)	APIETHIOPIA EXPO 2015, in Addis Ababa Organized by EHBPEA



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