

Introduction



Bees for Keeps



Bees for Keeps

Why create Bees for Keeps?

Are we not duplicating other organisations?



Bees for Keeps

A relationship between all Agricultural
Service Providers, Growers and the
Beekeeping industry

Finding solutions for sustainability



Bees for Keeps

There are concerns voiced by many role players regarding sustainability issues of both grower and beekeeper industries. Joining forces and tackling these following problems jointly is expected to lead to synergistic positive outcomes for all.

- As Growers, farming with green deserts is by no means sustainable and life should be encouraged back into the orchards. How?
- Beekeeping and pollination service provision: struggle for year long sustainability. What can be done?

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES: POLLINATOR SUSTAINABILITY

- “Pollination is the highest agricultural contributor to yields worldwide, contributing far beyond any other agricultural management practice.” (FAO –Why Bees Matter)
- However, monocultures, intensive agricultural practices and use of pesticides have led to large-scale losses of pollinator and their habitats all over the world.
- Farmers can help maintain pollinator abundance, diversity and health by diversifying farms to make food resources and shelter continuously available to pollinators.
- Sustainable agriculture is farming with nature

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES: POLLINATOR SUSTAINABILITY

- Many International biodiversity programmes exist to increase pollination sustainability
- **Bees for Keeps are in line with international agricultural programmes : leading much needed change in South African agricultural practices.**
- Although being initiated for the Mpumalanga Lowveld, this initiative could in time be expanded as the problems experienced locally is felt all over South Africa and indeed the world.



Bees for Keeps

Bees of Sub-Saharan Africa

It is estimated that there are around 30 000 bee species worldwide of which about 20 500 have been described, 2755 occur in sub-Saharan Africa and about 1200 occur in South Africa. Bees, in many shapes and sizes, pollinate about 80% of all flowering plants and 75% of the vegetables, fruits and nuts we eat. The symbols next to each bee indicate their sociality, where they nest and where they get their food.

Megachilidae are long tongued bees with two submarginal cells on their wings that collect pollen under their abdomens. The group comprises almost every type of nest building behaviour.

Apidae are long tongued bees with two or three submarginal wing cells that collect pollen on their hind legs. Most are solitary but some are social. Parasitism includes social parasites, cleptoparasites and robbers.

Halictidae have short pointed tongues, one subantennal suture and a strongly curved basal vein in the forewing. They account for about one-third of all Afrotropical bee species, and are possibly the most abundant bees.

Colletidae have forked short-tongues, one subantennal suture and a straight basal vein in the forewing. They nest in tunnels in the ground or in hollow twigs and apply clear secretions onto the walls of their brood cells.

Andrenidae have short pointed tongues, two subantennal sutures and a straight basal vein in the forewing. They are pollen collectors that nest in burrows in the soil.

Melittidae have short pointed tongues, one subantennal suture and a straight basal vein in the forewing. They collect pollen from flowers and nest in burrows in the soil.

Scale:
5 mm
10 mm

Nesting (Colour):
● Make external cases from plant material in existing burrows
● Secrete a cellophane-like substance in existing wood burrows
● Carpenter, stem and stone bees bore tunnels in wood
● Ground nesting
● Dauber and resin bees make cases of soil or resin
● Carvers make woolly balls around little cocoon-like structures

Feeding (Letter):
F - Collect pollen from flowers and pollinate flowers in the process
S - Social parasites replace or coexist with the queen and use the host workers to raise their progeny
C - Cleptoparasites lay their eggs in the nests of other bees and the larvae feed on the food collected for the host's larvae
R - Robbers steal pollen and honey from nests of other bees

Sociality (Shape):
□ Solitary
△ Social
⊕ Social honey producers

Males (♂) and Females (♀):
Only female bees that provision brood cells carry pollen, and only females sting.
Bee Keeping
One species, *Apis mellifera*, is used for almost all honey production and commercial pollination.

Poster Compiled by: www.happyacres.co.uk
Reference: www.happyacres.co.uk
More information on Sub-Saharan bees and wasps is available at www.happyacres.co.uk
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Environmental Education Centre
Johannesburg, South Africa

DID YOU KNOW?

- Pollination havens will support much more than just honey bees.
- There are about 1200 bee species in South Africa?
- There are many other species of insects that provide pollination on our farms.
- Many insects predate pest species – we can provide breeding havens for these species to save on pest control costs



Bees for Keeps

- A voluntary association, established by interested parties for the benefit of the sustainability of bees and other pollinators
 - Beekeepers (i.e. honey producers & pollination service providers)
 - Farmers (crop growers whether they need pollination or not)
 - Academic Institutions and Researchers
 - Pesticide companies
 - Agricultural Consultants
 - Individuals and companies wanting to create Havens for bees
- Area of operation – starting with, but not limited to the Mpumalanga Lowveld



Bees for Keeps

Objectives of the Association:

- Promote, protect and actively work towards the sustainability of bees and pollinators
- Develop a common culture amongst members through participation, information sharing, training and networking to ensure cohesive and committed membership
- To make representations to any authorities and likeminded organisations by initiating and influencing where possible existing and proposed laws, policies and budgets affecting or likely to affect the sustainability of bees
- To forge alliances with similar organisations to the mutual benefit of the Associations
- To raise funds for projects relating to the objectives, through membership and other suitable fundraising activities which is not competing with the day-to-day business of any of its members



Bees for Keeps

Membership & Administration of funds:

- KLCBT will be the umbrella to host the Association, similar to any other small chamber in the region
- KLCBT will do all administration of membership and funds
- Members will enjoy dual membership and enjoy all benefits of KLCBT membership
- 75% of Membership fees will be retained by KLCBT in a special holding account, for the use of the working committee and 25% will be retained by KLCBT for the purpose of affiliation and administration fees
- Membership will automatically renew every year upon the anniversary of the date of joining, unless resignation is received in writing at KLCBT
- Membership fees are determined jointly by the Board of the KLCBT and the Working Committee of Bees for Keeps
- Members will be invited to an Annual General Meeting of Bees for Keeps as well as KLCBT every year where they will conduct standard business as required at an Annual General Meeting



Bees for Keeps

Working Committee:

- Members are invited to volunteer to serve in the working committee
 - To volunteer for one or more of the 5 objectives. We need as many hands as possible
 - The Chairperson will be elected at first sitting
 - A new committee will be confirmed every year at the AGM after which a Chairperson for the year will be elected at the first sitting



Bees for Keeps

Powers and duties of the Working Committee:

- To implement and generally give effect to objects, decisions and policies of the Association
- To determine any other business that may be considered at the Annual General Meeting or other General Meetings, i.e. the draft constitution for the first AGM
- To request and approve payments to be made by KLCBT from the holding account
- To invest, dispose or deal with assets including movable, immovable, corporeal and incorporeal, cash and other assets of the Association
- To generally transact the business of the Association, which may include appointment and dismissal of permanent or temporary staff members
- To review and approve the financial statements as prepared by KLCBT