



BEE FOR HONEY AND MONEY

Pollinators and entrepreneurs for a sustainable future in Kenya

Hand in Hand is intensifying its efforts to integrate sustainability into its programmes. In so doing, we can contribute to the green transformation and to reaching the global Agenda 2030 goals.

The objective of **BEE – for honey and money** is to both fight poverty and improve biodiversity. The project will combine our tried and tested entrepreneurship training together with education in modern beekeeping and honey production methods. Bees are vital for the world's supply of food and for the future of our planet.

In Kenya, ecosystem degradation and the effects of climate change have become a reality

for millions of small-scale farmers. In 2020, an extreme drought coincided with the coronavirus pandemic, a double hit for already vulnerable families. Now, more than ever, we need to invest in resilient and sustainable livelihoods!

We are seeking donations for this high-priority project, and we look forward to initiate a dialogue with you.

THE SITUATION FOR KENYA'S SMALL-SCALE FARMERS

Small-scale farmers constitute as much as 80 per cent of Kenya's population. They are dependent on their own yields to provide for both their daily food needs and to generate an income. In turn, their surpluses supply millions of other households with food. 2020 was an especially challenging year, as droughts coincided with the coronavirus pandemic and the intensive grasshopper invasion. These factors turned the positive growth trend to an economic decline. The agricultural sector was especially hard-hit. During the year, unemployment increased from 5 to 23 percent in Kenya and the proportion of the population living in poverty increased from 33 to 37 percent.



Ecosystem degradation and the effects of climate change have become particularly pronounced in Kenya. This not only threatens biodiversity, but also people's ability to make a livelihood. Agricultural practices need to be transformed so they can become a stable and sustainable source of income in the long term. By diversifying their farming practices to include beekeeping, these farmers are creating additional sources of income. It also provides them with a more varied diet and contributes to maintaining or increasing the local biodiversity.

WHY BEEKEEPING?

However, the stock of pollinating insects, such as bees, is decreasing dramatically and threats from human activity appear to be more severe than researchers have previously believed.

Beekeeping is an effective method to support biodiversity. It doesn't drain natural resources in the same way as other forms of agriculture. Instead, it makes a positive contribution through pollination and increased crop diversification. This, in turn, leads to greater crop yields and increased resilience to the effects of climate change.

Honey is a product in high demand in Kenya, far exceeding its supply. These are good preconditions for economic sustainability and stable livelihoods for the beekeepers.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Kitui region in Kenya is characterized by recurring droughts, poverty and vulnerability. Undeveloped infrastructure leads to difficulties for the farmers to transport themselves and their products to the markets. Many small farmers are exploited when they try to sell their crops or honey.

BEE – for honey and money will contribute to strengthening the entrepreneurs’ ability to make a livelihood. This also increases their buffer and resilience to unforeseen crises in the family, society, and the world. Increased incomes make it possible for children to attend school, for families to access health care, invest in improvements in their homes, and to save. It also, importantly, gives the entrepreneurs enhanced control over their own lives, improved self-confidence, and the courage to take on a larger role in society. In addition, it provides greater understanding and insight into the value of insects and bees, as well as the importance of protecting biodiversity.

Within the framework of the project, 2 000 poor small farmers (1 600 women and 400 men) will be trained through 100 self-help groups over a period of 36 months.

The objectives are:

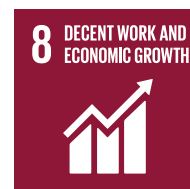
- To create and / or strengthen 1400 small-scale businesses and create 1820 jobs
- Increased income by 25% - 40% for new and existing beekeepers by improving productivity and access to markets
- Strong socio-economic development in the Kitui region through strengthening and streamlining six regional organizations (CBO Community-based organizations)

The project’s budget is SEK 4.5 million.

The project follows Hand in Hand’s proven model. The beekeepers are first mobilised by building self-help groups, where they can organise themselves, begin saving, and support one another. In this case, the next step is education concerning beekeeping, value chains, and entrepreneurship training. Access to microfinance and capital is then made available for investments into starting and developing the business. Finally, we support the project participants in expanding their businesses by building supply groups and links to larger markets.



The project primarily targets women. This is indeed where it is needed most, as 70 per cent of Kenyan women are farmers, while only seven per cent are landowners. We know that our projects have the greatest impact if we focus on women. Research shows that women spend 90 cents of every dollar they earn on their family. The corresponding figure for men is 40 cents.



BECOME PART OF THE CHANGE THAT THE WORLD NEEDS!



Through the project BEE - for honey and money, you can be part of supporting vulnerable small-scale farmers through training in planet friendly farming methods and sustainable management of resources, so they can support themselves in a way that does not compromise future generations livelihoods and well-being.

The project in Kitui provides scalable examples of how enhanced biodiversity can contribute to sustainable food production, while helping to reduce poverty. Similar projects have produced good results and now we are scaling up our programmes within the green economy.

Join us in fighting poverty through sustainable entrepreneurship!

Read more about Hand in Hand's earlier beekeeping projects in Kenya:

<https://www.handinhandsweden.se/om-hand-in-hand/projekt/baringo-honeyvaluechains/>

Meet one of the co-owners from the Baringo Project:

<https://www.handinhandsweden.se/pascaline-banade-vag-i-mansdominerad-branch/>



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