

# Apimondia

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**THE MOST  
IMPORTANT  
BEEKEEPING NEWS**





# JEFF PETTIS APIMONDIA PRESIDENT

**Dear Friends,**

We have just completed a very successful 46th Apimondia Congress in Montreal. It was a well-organized, informative and fun meeting: now we make plans for Ufa, Russia in 2021. I want to thank the team from Canada for a great effort in showcasing Canadian beekeeping and for making the 46th Apimondia Congress one to remember. I also want to thank those of the Apimondia Executive Committee team who ended their Apimondia duties after great service to beekeepers globally. I list them here in no particular order but simply to say that each has made significant contributions over the years. I start with Dr. Karl Crailsheim as I believe he is the longest serving of the Executive Committee stepping down. Thank you, Karl, for years of service to Apimondia and for being a personal friend and mentor to me. Karl is being aptly replaced on the Bee Biology Commission by Dr. Geraldine Wright, a well-respected scientist and she will bring her expertise and energy to bear in Apimondia: welcome Jeri to the team. Our European Regional commissioner Diego Pagani is stepping aside, and we welcome Robert Chledo as our representative from Europe. Robert brings a wealth of expertise in beekeeping and teaching and will represent all of Europe at the Apimondia table. Also, from the Americas our Regional commissioner Misael Cuevas Bravo will be replaced by our past vice-President, Lucas Martinez. Thus, we continue to be well represented with knowledge and expertise in the Americas. Misael will help to organize the 48th Apimondia Congress to be held in Chile in 2023! The Bee Health Commission Presidents position that I had the pleasure of leading is being filled by Dr. Fani Hatjina. Fani will bring a great deal of energy and knowledge to the position and I look forward to working with her and all the new members of the Executive Committee.

I also thank all the returning members of the Executive Committee for their continued service to Apimondia. Lastly, I had the great honor to be entrusted by you to become the President of Apimondia.

I am pleased to serve in this capacity and thank Peter Kozmus for filling in as Acting President when we had the sudden loss of our President Philp McCabe. Philips' passing was a loss to beekeepers worldwide and to Apimondia in particular. We press on with the initiatives that he started and thank him for his tireless efforts on behalf of beekeepers.



I will now say a word or two about my ideas for the future. Apimondia has a proud and very impressive past in its service to beekeepers on a global scale. This history will be maintained but the world is changing and we at Apimondia need to continue to adapt to these changes.

Urban beekeeping is on the rise. Alternative forms of beekeeping are being used by beekeepers beyond the normal movable 10-frame white boxes that so many of us use. We must embrace this wider audience while still honoring the traditional methods that are most commonly used. There is room for all ideas and innovation, as we are all beekeepers. Even the type of bee we manage is changing in the sense that we need to recognize that the world does not solely revolve around *Apis mellifera*. In many areas of the world, other bees are better suited and more sustainable; from *Apis cerana* in Asia to sting less bees in the Americas and beyond.

All of these bees and beekeepers are practicing beekeeping. Lastly, I want to say we need to improve the ways in which we communicate. The Apimondia congress will continue to be our flagship event but we must continue to work to bring regional meetings and workshops to all areas of the globe. This regional approach allows more beekeepers to attend and allows Apimondia to have focused meetings on beekeeping practices and problems in a given area. Also, Apimondia will explore the possibility of video streaming portions of meetings, such that Apimondia members can watch them live or at their leisure and not have the expense of time and travel involved in attending a meeting in person. This is good for the planet and good for inclusion of those who can't afford to travel.

So, I urge you to continue to support Apimondia. We will work to listen to you and continue to build Apimondia into a well-recognized leader in the beekeeping world. As you know we work on broad issues such as honey adulteration, pesticides, pests and diseases and recognition of the role bees play in our food supply and in helping low income farmers out of poverty. Bees can indeed change peoples lives. The bees don't need us, we need bees.

Enjoy your beekeeping and stay engaged.

Sincerely

**JEFF PETTIS**



# Seeking your support for beekeepers in Mozambique and Zimbabwe

BY DR NICOLA BRADBEAR,  
APIMONDIA SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION  
BEEKEEPING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

In March 2019 devastating Cyclone Idai caused havoc in Southern Africa. From the east coast of Mozambique it travelled through Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Madagascar, causing around 1,300 deaths. More than 3 million people suffered loss of family members, their possessions, homes and livelihoods.

Beekeeping is the ideal livelihood for many of these people in rural areas, with low input costs when bee hives are made from local materials, and quick to establish. Beekeeping provides the basis for resilient and sustainable livelihoods for many people in this region and is a feasible alternative to forest products like charcoal, with the beekeeper becoming a protector of the forest - honey and beeswax production can be directly related to the health of the forest.

Many beekeepers in Manicaland (Zimbabwe and Mozambique) have lost their hives, and consequently their livelihood, because of Cyclone Idai. Swept away by the flooding, destroyed by rock and landslides, or thrown out of the trees by the fierce winds. Apimondia requests you to support our effort to raise funds to help beekeepers affected in these areas by Cyclone Idai.

It is not easy to collect information about the affected beekeepers due to damages to infrastructure, As far as we can estimate, 682 beekeepers in Chimanimani (Manicaland, Zimbabwe) have been affected, losing 2,912 bee hives. In Chikukwa (district of Chimanimani), there were at least 164 beekeepers, with at least 600 hives washed away by the floods.

Solomon Chikwee from Ngangu (Manicaland, Zimbabwe) says:

"I had 250 occupied hives, 150 were destroyed by the floods." Landslides and flooding have hit him hard. Many beekeepers lost hives, or their honey bee colonies subsequently absconded. Beekeepers have been unable to harvest honey and are missing the funds they need to reconstruct their normal lives.

Recent reports from the area now tell that Mango and Avocado yields are significantly diminished. Now the area is suffering from lack of rain, and cattle are dying.

This is an urgent intervention and funds will go directly towards:

- Replacing hives
- Giving training on hive making
- Reforestation

The funds will be managed by Bees for Development Trust, UK Charity 1078803.

Please donate at this website <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/bees>



# Apimondia World Beekeeping Awards for Honey - October 2019

**ENID BROWN, WBA CO-ORDINATOR;**

**JODIE GOLDSWORTHY, PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL  
COMMISSIONS OF OCEANIA;**

**ETIENNE BRUNEAU, PRESIDENTN OF BEEKEEPING  
TECHNOLOGY & QUALITY;**

**NORBERTO GARCIA, PRESIDENT BEEKEEPING ECONOMY**



Following an investigation into the World Beekeeping Awards in Turkey in 2017 Apimondia has been focused on improving the standards for the World Beekeeping Awards for the honey categories. It is clear that there is much interest, and rightly so, in the awarding of medals that signify the best honey's of the world and highlight the outstanding quality of the successful entries.

Apimondia worked for two years to develop a rigorous and robust process in consultation with global experts in honey analysis and testing methods, to build a process that prevented the awarding of medals to honey's that did not comply with honey quality testing expected by the global market and consumers.

Honey is a product that has received much attention in relation to its quality and purity both within the global retail market and global media. Consumers of honey want to be assured that the honey they consume is pure honey, free of contaminants and deliberate adulteration. For beekeepers to survive and thrive into the future they must be able to produce a product that meets consumers and market expectations. It is true that the consumer is becoming more informed and more aware of issues of honey purity and authenticity.

A higher standard for participation acceptance has been utilized in order to reflect Apimondia's commitment with the increasing quality expectations of beekeeping products. This year entrants in the honey categories were subjected to external laboratory analysis using ISO 17025 accredited laboratories to test for honey purity, contamination with residues, and some traditional quality parameters.

The process involved participants submitting three identical samples in July. In addition to the samples they needed to advise details about the geographic region the honey was produced. The samples were received by the volunteers of the Canadian Honey Council in Canada. The volunteers then forwarded one sample for laboratory analysis to the approved laboratories and kept two samples for staging and sensory and traditional review by the World Beekeeping Awards Honey Judges in Montreal during the Apimondia Congress.

The cost of testing the WBA Honey samples was a significant investment. Apimondia would like to thank Bruker for providing subsidised testing as the major sponsor of the WBA Honey Competition. This support allowed the entrants to participate at a much lower entry fee. NMR testing was used to detect for the presence of foreign sugars only. The samples were not eliminated on their basis of country of origin. Where a sample originated from a region where there were limited samples in the database the sample was still allowed to proceed for judging based on a precautionary principle where the WBA Working Group did not wish to risk the elimination of samples on the basis of limitation of the database in regard to not all countries being fully represented within the data.

Therefore no country was disadvantaged on the basis of limitations within the database. In essence only the samples that were without doubt contaminated with foreign sugars were eliminated using the NMR Method.

The results of laboratory testing indicate to us that there is much work to do and many areas that we, as a global beekeeping community, can focus on for improvement. They also reflect an increasing pressure on beekeepers to maintain the health of their bees, which may in turn increase the risk of unintentional contamination of their products. Honey has many special characteristics, some of which are still being discovered in many parts of the world. Whilst we face these challenging times, we in Apimondia have no choice but to meet these challenges head on, to inform, support and improve the quality of our products. Beekeepers need good knowledge, education and support globally.

The World Beekeeping Awards, the Apimondia Statement on Honey Adulteration, and Apimondia Congresses are part of this ongoing process to improve beekeeping and bee products.

Apimondia provides a forum for the world to come together to face common challenges within the beekeeping sectors. Most of the world's beekeepers are currently facing enormous difficulties with unsustainable prices for their products. Being a beekeeper is becoming more and more difficult with modern agribusiness and global climate change. However, it is the duty of Apimondia to constantly increase the quality of bee products, even in current quite unfavorable environments.

Apimondia is working intensely to address the problem of honey adulteration. In January 2018 the first version of the Statement on Honey Fraud was released. This Statement reflects the official position of Apimondia, and has a dynamic nature always open to improvement as new knowledge becomes available and more voices make their genuine contributions. The Honey Adulteration Working Group met to begin the process of updating the Statement.

Apimondia sincerely hopes that beekeepers understand, support and share Apimondia's efforts intended to start a continuous quality improvement process.

Beekeepers looking to improve their knowledge of honey quality and testing can take the following important steps to meet consumer expectations of their products:

- Follow good beekeeping practices that limit any opportunity for inadvertent contamination with products used to manage the health of their bees.
- Ensure that their hives are placed in locations that limit the opportunity for environmental contamination of their product.
- Keep samples of each lot of honey that they extract.
- Conduct regular tests to check the quality of their products or seek feedback from their honey packer if they are on selling their honey about the tests that they complete on their honey, especially of products intended for honey competitions.
- Educate themselves on the latest in honey testing advancements by participating in seminars and workshops on honey quality through:
  - Subscribing to journals, publications, honey analysis newsletters.
  - Participating in seminars and workshops on honey quality and honey competitions.
  - Reading on the topic of honey. An excellent publication that was launched at.

Apimondia in Montreal is "The Honey" by Helmut Horn and Cord Lullmann. (ISBN 978-3-9810012-9-7) This highly topical standard work provides an overview at a level that is easily understood by laypersons on everything about honey: world honey trade, honey production and extraction, treatment and constituents, marketing and declaration and legal requirements. Most importantly it provides in one volume an overview of the many aspects of honey quality and the things that influence these as well as the testing that can be undertaken to ensure the product remains valued as one of nature's most valued products.

# 46TH APIMONDIA CONGRESS AFRICA'S PERSPECTIVE

**DAVID MUKOMANA**

**President of Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa**

THE JUST ENDED 46TH APIMONDIA CONGRESS HELD IN MONTREAL, CANADA FROM THE 8TH TO 12TH. SEPTEMBER 2019 HAD MANY HIGHLIGHTS THAT PROVIDE A BASIS ON WHICH AFRICAN STAKEHOLDERS CAN BUILD ON. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS:

## **1. Attendance**

The number of African Delegates was very low compared to the number that had intended to travel due to visa challenges. This unfortunate situation left Apimondia Executive Council with a challenge of finding possible ways of dealing with such eventualities in order to avoid recurrence at future Apimondia events.

The Congress was well organized, including the registration process, Exhibition Stands as well the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, providing a benchmark for future Apimondia Congress hosts.

## **2. Programs / Workshops**

The Congress had a number of very interesting and informative sessions that brought a lot of value to many African delegates who attended. And the feedback is very encouraging.

The Head of Delegation from South Africa, the Member of Executive Council (North West) for Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, Ms Desbo Mohono attended all the sessions relating to her scope of work and her feedback provide reason for the Regional Commission to encourage more government officials to attend Apimondia Congresses.

The words of the Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Mizengo Pinda, were deep and encouraging, that after attending so many sessions, he realized there is so much to learn and share with the communities' back home. The phrase that he is "retired but not tired" was the message he promised to share with other retired and serving political leaders so they support the efforts of the stakeholders in promoting beekeeping on the continent.

And the feedback of AU-IBAR Director in a meeting with Apimondia Secretary-General and Acting President during the congress was equally significant given the desire of AU-IBAR to contribute to the sub-sector. The assurance given by the Secretary-General of Apimondia technical support for Africa Region defines a new chapter of further collaborations that will develop our sector to another level.

# 46TH APIMONDIA CONGRESS AFRICA'S PERSPECTIVE

## 3. Africa Round Table

The Africa Round Table

Session was very successful with a number of delegates attending including some from other continents who are keenly following the developments in African beekeeping and honey industries. The Guest Speaker, H.E Honorable Mizengo Pinda– Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Tanzania who is a passionate Beekeeper in his own right, gave a very encouraging speech that has provided more energy to the African stakeholders to fully exploit the natural resources Africa is endowed with. The AU-IBAR Director, Prof Ahmed also delivered the AU-IBAR Inaugural Report on the Status of Apiculture in Africa that provided more insight into the status of beekeeping in African and the collective vision for African Apiculture Sector.

## 4. Africa Regional Commission Report

The Regional Commission President presented his Regional Commission Report providing an overview of the work done for the past two years in between the 45th (Sept 2017) and 46th (Sept 2019) Apimondia Congresses. This report is available online on the Apimondia website: [www.apimondia.com / Regional Report](http://www.apimondia.com/RegionalReport).

## 5. Africa Pavilion

The Africa Pavilion won Silver as the Second Best Winner in the Large Stands Category. It was such a humbling experience to have the Hon. Minister of Agriculture – Ethiopia walking to the podium to collect the Award during the Closing Ceremony. Indeed, Africa is in the big league and a little bit of more effort, the world is ready to recognise the African quality, friendliness, organisational abilities at the highest level. The only challenge was the fact that the pavilion was reduced from the original setsquare meters due to exhibitors failing to secure visas.

And the concept of One Africa Pavilion is not ending with Montreal as stakeholders are already planning for bigger, better future shows at Apimondia Congresses. Indeed, being the continent that produces high quality natural honey and bees wax, a number of stands will be abuzz with these products in Russia confirming Africa is “open for beez-ness”.

## 6. 48th Apimondia Congress Bid

Ethiopia was bidding to host 48th Apimondia Congress in 2023 but failed to secure the congress by just 13 votes in favour of Chile. The fact that Ethiopia got 53 votes clearly shows there are members who believe in Africa and are looking forward to seeing Africa rise to the limelight. However, we still have more to do internally in order to secure Apimondia Congress in Africa.

# 46TH APIMONDIA CONGRESS AFRICA'S PERSPECTIVE

It is important to complement the tremendous effort and resources put in the process by Ethiopian stakeholders and government. The team did a great job to promote the bid and failure to secure the bid provides Africa with more time to prepare and be ready for the next available slot. As the Regional Commission President, I would like to comment all other African stakeholders who played a big role in assisting the Ethiopian Team to promote the Bid.

## 7. **World Bee Day May 2020**

South Africa, through the North West Provincial Government, is hosting the African Continent for the World Bee Day Celebration in May 2020. The MEC for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development headed the SA Delegation to the Apimondia Congress at the invitation of the Regional Commission, made the formal announcement of the plans. The full program will be put in place and invitations to African Member States formally send before the end of the year to allow stakeholders to plan for the Celebrations.

## Looking into the future

As a Region, there are lessons we have learnt and need to learn from the experience in Montreal during the 46th Apimondia Congress in order to increase our footprint in the global honey industry including the following:

### 1. **Early Preparations**

Given the challenges experienced by delegates in 2017 and 2019 regarding visas to attend Apimondia Congresses, the Regional Commission engaged the Russian organised during the 46th Apimondia Congress to discuss and get assurance about visa processes for the delegates to attend 47th Apimondia Congress.

Further, the Regional Commission will share a program in due course on the arrangements so that delegates are able to budget and seek internal approval(s) so we avoid last minute rush to secure funding and visas for Russia.

### 2. **Coordination**

Africa has massive potential to do great. Collective effort is what is needed to propel Africa to the top in terms of lobbying and creating awareness; honey production; exhibitions at the highest level (Apimondia Congresses) and honey exports.

# 46TH APIMONDIA CONGRESS AFRICA'S PERSPECTIVE

There are a number of players in the African Apiculture sector providing great input into the sector. These efforts need to be harnessed and collectively used to develop the sector to levels of providing sufficient bee products for domestic and regional markets and thus reduce importation of honey from outside the continent as well as meeting the international export demand for African honey. These players include National Associations, Development Partners, Government institutions, Institutions of higher learning, AU-IBAR, ApiTrade Africa and Apimondia.

### **3. Increased Symposia**

Given the limited resources many of the African beekeeping stakeholders have to attend Apimondia Congresses, the Regional Commission believes these important stakeholders deserve to be given an opportunity to tap into Apimondia expertise and the opportunities that are presented by such congresses. Thus, hosting Apimondia Symposia in the African Region is a realistic option to bring the event closer to the majority of our stakeholders.

Member countries and or associations are welcome to discuss with the Regional Commission on the possibility of hosting Apimondia Regional events in their countries. The Commission wishes to have symposia done at Africa sub-regions level thus ensuring Africa hosts more than one Apimondia Symposium per year. The Regional Commission is currently working with The Ugandan Apiculture Development Organisation (TUNADO) to host an Apimondia Symposium on Increasing production of Residue-free hive products scheduled for August 2020.

### **4. Regional Working Groups**

The Commission believes it is high time Africa provides input into the scientific work presented at the global stage. African bees and their environment is unique and thus the challenges and possible line of scientific improvements should be based on the uniqueness of the African bees. Thus, the region needs to invest in scientific research to interpret, guide and formulate improvements of the African stock which can be presented at Apimondia as part of the input to resolutions made that are of a scientific nature.

*The Regional Commission President is in the process of coming up with the Regional Working Groups and stakeholders, especially the Scientists working in the Apiculture Sector should share with the President their suggestions and possibly volunteer their expertise to constitute these Regional Working Groups that will in turn feed into the Apimondia Scientific Commissions work.*

# THE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL MODEL, HONEY FRAUD, AND THE LACK OF APPRAISAL OF BEEKEEPING BY GOVERNMENTS ARE CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES FACED BY THE BEEKEEPING SECTOR OF THE AMERICAS.

## LUCAS MARTÍNEZ

*President of Regional Commission of the Americas*

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During the 46th International Beekeeping Congress in Montreal (Canada), representatives of bee organizations of the American continent -members of APIMONDIA- met to discuss the regional problems of beekeeping and to generate proposals to reverse them.

The meeting was chaired by Misael Cuevas Bravo (Chile), who ended his mandate as president of the Regional Commission, with the presence of members from Canada, USA, Mexico, El Salvador, Brazil, Chile and Argentina.

As a starting point, each country described the main problems they currently face, possible solutions and the role that APIMONDIA should have as an international entity. Then a summary was made of common problems. The agro-industrial model was considered the main problem that the region must face, since many countries see how the number of hives and beekeepers decrease due to bee losses and low yields being caused by the indiscriminate use of pesticides. Another important factor that affects beekeepers very badly is the fraud of honey at the international level, which generates low prices, blocks some great markets, and threatens large beekeeping operations.

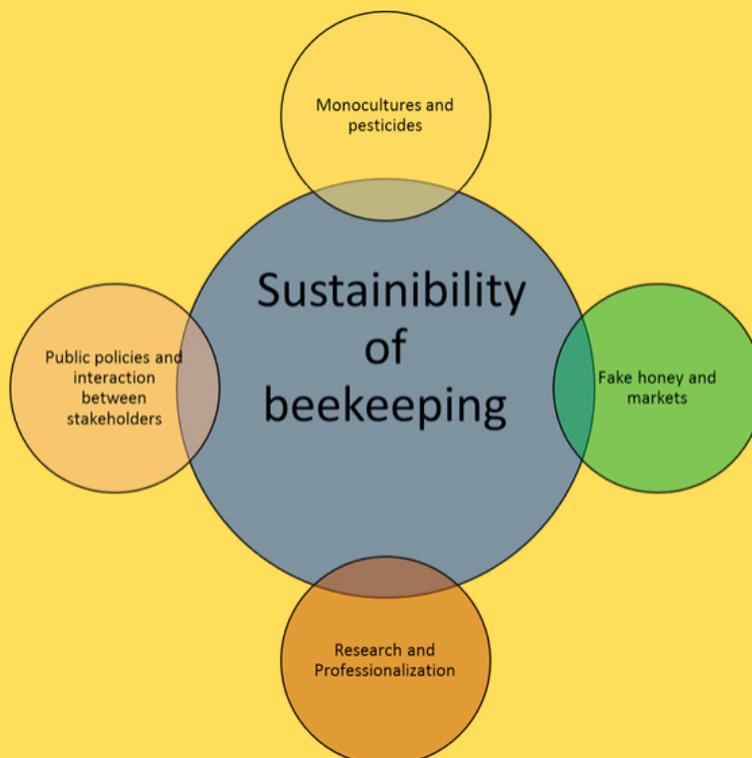
As a general rule, the regional governments do not recognize beekeeping either as a promoter of biodiversity or as a generator of healthy and natural foods. As a consequence, no adequate policies for the support and development of beekeeping are generated, the number of beekeepers is decreasing, and young people are not incorporated to the activity.

### **THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS WERE AGREED:**

1. The contribution that beekeeping makes to the national agricultural GDPs should be more precisely calculated. The results should then be spread within the value chain, and communicated to governments and other economic actors with whom territory is shared.
2. To strengthen local associativity, regional integration, and the role of APIMONDIA.
3. To promote the generation of alliances with other related unions (agro-ecology, family farming, forestry, fruit and vegetables, etc.) and with international organizations such as FAO, FIDA, UNDP, etc. in order to join forces and improve local as well as regional territorial visibility.
4. To conduct broadcast campaigns to keep citizens informed about the importance of beekeeping and the defense of bees and pollinators.

### **INTERNALLY, IT WAS PROPOSED:**

1. The Regional Commission will be composed of a representative from each APIMONDIA member institution of the Americas' region.
2. To implement a system of periodic reports for the Regional Commission and for APIMONDIA.
3. To replicate APIMONDIA's organizational chart and have a representative for each scientific commission in our organization.
4. To generate regional events such as symposia and/or meetings. More specifically, the organization of a Symposium on Crop Pollination was proposed, which would take place in Mexico during the first months of 2021.
5. Misael Cuevas was appointed as Vice-president of our Regional Commission in order to replace the president in some activities he cannot attend.
6. Other possibilities of working together on other specific topics were also evaluated.





International Meliponine Conference and  
Asian Apicultural Association (AAA) Philippines  
Symposium on Pollinator Conservation

Stingless Bees: Cinderella No More

25-28 February 2020

University of the Philippines Los Baños

Our Invited Speakers



**Dr. Nikolaus Koeniger**

Professor Emeritus  
University of Wurzburg, Germany  
Topic: Niche Differentiation  
Among the Bee Species



**Dr. David Roubik**

Scientist  
Smithsonian Tropical Research  
Institute, Panama  
Topic: Island Biogeography of  
Rainforest Bees: What Does It  
Tell Us?



**Dr. Nicola Bradbear**

Director  
Bees for Development, UK  
Topic: Native Bees are for Rural  
Development



**Dr. Deborah Smith**

Professor  
University of Kansas, USA  
Topic: Genetic Diversity of  
Stingless Bees



**Dr. Lilia de Guzman**

Research Entomologist  
Honey-Bee Breeding, Genetics and  
Physiology Laboratory, Baton Rouge,  
Louisiana.  
Topic: Advances in Mite and Small  
Hive Beetle Management and  
Control



**Mr. Abu Hassan Jalil**

Meliponine Repository Consultant  
Malaysian Genome  
Institute Akademi Kelulut  
Malaysia  
Topic: Cohabitation of Meliponines  
in Arboreal Ants' or Termites' Nests  
in the Greater Sunda Islands



**Dr. Tim Heard**

Entomologist & Science  
Communicator Sugarbag Bees  
and University of Sydney, Brisbane,  
Queensland  
Topic: Research Developments in  
Support of Stingless Beekeeping



**Mr. Riccardo  
Jannoni-Sebastianini**

Secretary-General  
Apimondia  
Topic: The World Bee Day:  
Recognition of the Importance of  
Bees and Other Pollinators in the  
Ecosystem



**Dr. Shigeru Kakuta**

Associate Professor, Department of  
Biomedical Science Graduate School of  
Agriculture and Life Sciences,  
The University of Tokyo  
Topic: Evaluation of Tumor-Suppressing  
Potential of Philippine Stingless Bee  
Propolis Using In Vitro and In Vivo  
Models of Gastric Adenocarcinoma



**Dr. Patricia Vit**

Retired Professor  
Universidad de Los Andes,  
Merida, Venezuela  
Topic: A Meliponine Story Written  
inside Cerumen Pots

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[WWW.AAAPHILIPPINES.COM](http://WWW.AAAPHILIPPINES.COM)



# CURRENT ISSUES ON ASIAN BEEKEEPING

BY CLEO CERVANCIA PRESIDENT,  
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION (RTD) AT THE APIMONDIA CONGRESS IN MONTREAL  
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA  
12 SEPTEMBER 2019

1. Around 60 participants attended the Round Table discussion at the Apimondia congress in Montreal. Asian delegates were from Nepal, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, China, Iran, Myanmar, India, Korea, and Singapore. Other participating countries were United Kingdom, United States, Australia and Canada .

## The major issues raised were:

a. Apimondia Statement on Honey Fraud. Dr. Quyet Tam Dinh summarized the issues as follows:

- There was an speculation on one-box Langstroth-type during honey crop because Codex Stand 12-1981 revised 1987 and 2001 had no any word mentioned about types of bee hive.
- Honey dehydration is necessary with a part of honey produced in tropical zones and some type of honey because of beekeeping ecology and nectar sources where bees have difficulty in drying honey during ripening process. There are two problems in this accusation of fraud.
- Even moisture of honey meet Codex Stand 1981 and EC Directive 2001/110/EC of 20 December 2001 regulated moisture of general type of honey is not more than 20% but both institutions accept moisture of heather honey is not more than 23% as exceptional case. At high relative humidity, the high moisture content of honey is still at 23-24%. even when harvested ripe (sealed).

Since buyers always require all honey in trading must have moisture lower than 19%. In this case tropical honey must be dehydrated artificially. Therefore we believe that it is unfair to state that the process is fraudulent.

- The participants perceived that the Asian or tropical honey is discriminated, and Apimondia seems to be eurocentric.

a. Lack of bee research facilities and capabilities in some Asian countries. The recommended solution is forging of collaboration within Asia and other institutions in the regions.

b. There is a need to assess pollinator diversity in Asia. For a collaborative project, the capsule proposal, ASIAN POLLINATION MODEL (APM) FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY AND BIODIVERSITY MAINTENANCE was approved for submission to relevant funding agency, like FAO after completing the full proposal.

## Announcement of forthcoming events.

a. Bees in the World

"Bees in the World 2019" is an event in the Bee Summit 2019 that will introduce various apicultures and pollinators from around the world.

December 13th (Friday), 14th (Saturday), and 15th (Sunday), 2019

Venue: International Congress Center, Room 201 (2F), Contact: [office@bee-summit.jp](mailto:office@bee-summit.jp)

b. International Meliponine Conference and AAA Philippines Symposium on Pollinator Conservation.

This will be held at the University of the Philippines Los Banos on February 25-28, 2020. [www.aaa.philippines2020.com](http://www.aaa.philippines2020.com).

Asian Apicultural Association Conference Hanoi, Vietnam Date: December 7-10, 2020 Venue: Hanoi, Vietnam 1. Dr. Chen Lihong talked about the World Bee Day and its relevance to bee conservation.

2. Dr Choi, Yong Soo of Korea invited the scientists and researchers to publish articles in the Journal of Apiculture, which is the official journal of the Asian Apicultural Association.

3. A technical working group (TWG) for Honey Quality and Standard was formed with Dr. Quyet Tam Dinh as chair.

4. Similarly, a TWG for Pollination was formed involving representatives from Korea, China, Philippines, Myanmar and Thailand.

5. We resolve that Asia will continuously be proactive in promoting beekeeping and production of honey and other bee products that are safe for human health.

## NEWS FROM ASIA

The Second International Stingless Bee Conference and Workshop (ISBCW 2019) was held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Malaysia on July 31 -August 1, 2019. The conference was organized by the International Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM) in collaboration with Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Cawangan Sabah, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), Korporasi Pembangunan Desa Cawangan Sabah and Jabatan Pertanian Sabah. The theme of the conference Stingless Bee Industry Soaring Towards Sustainability is consistent with the advocacy of the region to harness the potential of local bee species for environmental protection. The conference served as platform in exchange of knowledge and innovations on stingless bee management. There were a total of 200 participants representing the academe, research institutions, entrepreneurs, government agencies and students. The conference consisted of workshop, scientific sessions and exhibits of the students who presented innovative projects and commercial beekeepers. In the workshop, the participants learned how to set up backyard meliponary and processing of bee products. Noteworthy were the innovations presented by high school students as part of their science investigative project.

The recent technological advances in stingless beekeeping was presented by the keynote speaker, Dr. Christiano Menezes, while Cleo Cervancia, the President of Apimondia Asia Commission talked on Pollinator Conservation in an Agricultural Landscape. Among the resolutions derived from the conference were the Establishing Standard for stingless bee honey and by products, as proposed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shamsui Bahri Abdul Razak (Co-chairman of the organizing committee) and Intensification of the Breeding System of select stingless bee species, as proposed by Mdm. Nur Hafizah Sharudin (Department of Agriculture Malaysia). The establishment of Malaysian Stingless Bee Council (MSNBC) as a promotion body to spearhead stingless bee industry in Malaysia received well support from the audience.



# WHY DO WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND OUR BEES?

KARL CRAILSHEIM  
BEE BIOLOGY COMMISSION  
FORMER PRESIDENT



The products (e.g. honey and wax) and the workforce (e.g. pollination) of honeybees are utilized by men since thousands of years. In the past and now, different honeybees are used at the same time in different parts of the world. From some only their products are taken (e.g. honey hunting), some wild honeybees are just taken from the environment and then kept in artificial hives, and some are bred since many generations.

This breeding could be done by keeping bees in different ways under different conditions just by selecting proper bees or by controlled and recorded breeding methods with defined features (e.g. Varroa tolerance or gentleness). Much scientific and genetic research has been performed since the genome of the honeybee has been deciphered. As an example, several features of immunity can now be attributed to certain genes and the activity of these genes can be measured and are indicators for the health conditions of the bees. Transgenerational immunity has been discovered, that means that a queen can create brood with special immunological abilities on demand (e.g. if there is a high infection pressure of a certain disease to make the brood more resistant).

Fundamental and applied biological research has not only been performed by investigating the bees as individuals, but also their environment and their coexistence with diseases and parasites and the influence of the environment on their performance have been tested. Thus, we have gained much knowledge about the influence of weather, climate and the interaction of different factors (e.g. agrochemicals, richness of nutrition, diseases, parasites, beekeeper's technology).

Further behavioral research has shown that the honeybees cannot be investigated as single individuals but have to be analyzed also as a superorganism, always considering social and metabolic interactions. Many deficiencies we have seen in lab experiments but not under hive conditions in the nature.

Nowadays, honeybees are threatened by an enormous large number of factors. Dozens of chemicals and pathogens are affecting the bees at the same time, interacting in combination and often exponentiating their effects and causing a reduction of vitality. Some of these effects are not necessarily lethal but decrease the performance (e.g. production of honey, flight capacity, effort, larval rearing, orientation, memory). Only very few of these combined effects are investigated so far.

The Bee Biology Commission together with other Apimondia commissions cares for the transfer of knowledge from scientists to beekeepers. Breeding methods, knowledge about the genome and its dynamics as well as about the effects of our environment - including nutrition of the bees – and the principles of the immune system are just some examples. Although much of this research is fundamental research this is an important contribution to increase the quality of our bees and the knowledge of our beekeepers - both securing the function of the bees for human nutrition and health.



Artificial larval rearing to test the effects of insecticides or pathogens. Worker larvae are grafted at the age of less than 1 day and then reared artificially by hand.



# FANI HATJINA

## PRESIDENT OF BEE HEALTH SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION

### **MONTREAL HONEY- APIMONDIA 2019 Technical tour** **Urban beekeeping and Urban agriculture- as awareness increasing tool** **and educational and society support services**

#### ***ApiGuru beekeeping***

ApiGuru beekeeping is not about trying to produce as much honey as possible, or controlling the swarming, or fighting the diseases, it is about achieving a harmony among bees, their environment and their human custodians. Indeed the ultimate goal of ApiGuru is to learn the art of beekeeping from the masters themselves the bees. The project headed by Branislav Babic and Yoav sasportas has over the years tested various systems as they relate to the harsh Canadian climate and has ventured onto the unbeaten path by implementing the adapted system on a larger scale proving that holistic approaches to beekeeping require less labour while remaining profitable, It is indented for backyards beekeeping and education a services.

#### ***Miel Montreal***

The mission of Miel Montréal is to develop and provide, within a concerted framework, educational services related to bees and more generally biodiversity in the city, as well as support to the beekeeping community. To promote biodiversity and support responsible apiculture, they focus their activities around 3 pillars in order to give everyone the necessary tools : education, networking and support. Visitors can experience urban beekeeping management practices all the year round, get to know the beekeeping flora for each season, taste Montreal honey.

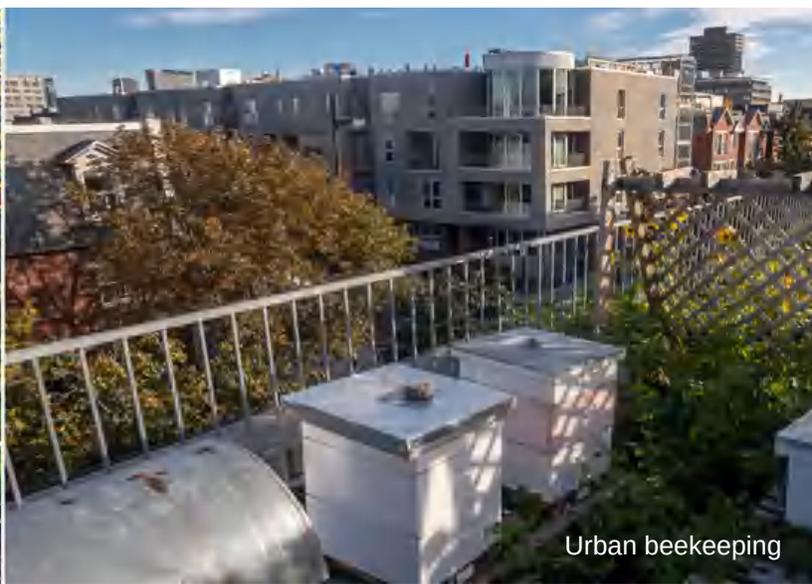
### ***Santropol Roulant Cooperative***

This is an intergenerational community food hub where they grow, prepare and deliver food. In doing so, they create a continuum of engaging services that help build a stronger social fabric, and increase food security and social inclusion for Montrealers, as they work a lot with volunteers.

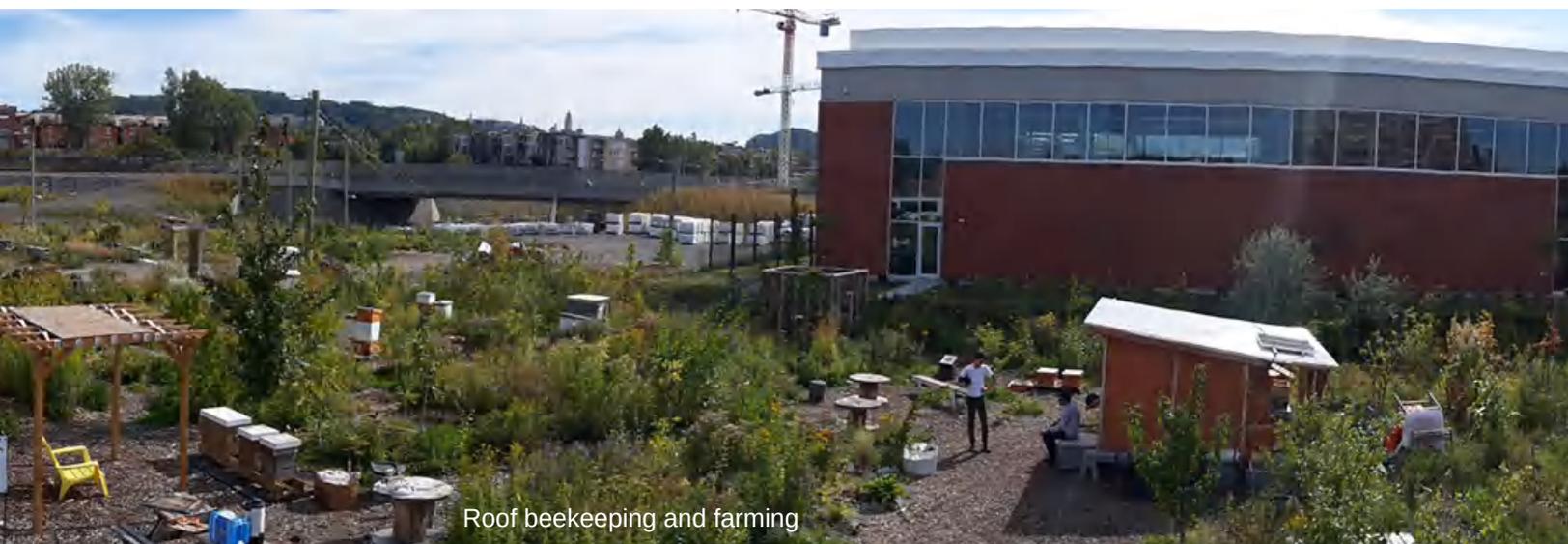
The objective is to give the community a chance to put its hands in the soil and learn more about food systems. Therefore, the cooperative has a large urban farm, in Montreal, as well as a roof vegetable farm together with a small apiary. Even a self-watering container system is in place to make better use of the water. Customers can visit the premises, walk on the roof, collect their herbs, see the vegetables and the bees pollinating them.



Urban beekeeping



Urban beekeeping



Roof beekeeping and farming



# THE KEY OF APICULTURE

**LUCAS GARIBALDI**

PRESIDENT OF POLLINATION AND BEE FLORA  
COMMISSION

Undoubtedly, pollination is a crucial process for fulfilling our basic welfare needs. Through the work shared in the 46th Apimondia Congress, we better understand the importance that social roles have in apiculture, and that honey production is currently the main economic activity of this sector. However, it is now known that many countries export little honey, and, for that reason, pollination is becoming an increasingly important, economical alternative for beekeepers.

Ultimately, the crucial role of pollinators in crop production has opened a market where there is a growing demand for their services.

During the Congress, the Pollination and Bee Flora Commission presented works from all over the world, evidencing the importance of bees in food production and how pollination services improve the livelihood of all parties involved.

Moreover, it was highlighted that diverse bees assemblages optimize pollination for many different crops, so efforts should focus on increasing the abundance of all pollinators, not just honeybees. Strategies to avoid or mitigate the pollinator declines that are typically associated with intensive agriculture should center on preserving natural habitats near crops and joint efforts between producers, beekeepers and policymakers to ensure sustainable changes in pollination management practices.

Although honey production has traditionally been the main economic activity of the beekeeping sector, it need not continue being the only one. Pollination is increasingly in demand and economical while not necessarily competing with honey production, proving the major importance of responsible bee management strategies. Beekeepers would greatly benefit from including pollination services among their main sources of income. To achieve this, it will be essential to conduct outreach activities that put research-generated knowledge and new proposed technologies to the entire community.

**Dr. Lucas Garibaldi.**

Director Instituto de Investigaciones en Recursos Naturales, Agroecología y Desarrollo Rural. IRNAD CONICET - UNRN <https://lucasgaribaldi.wixsite.com/lucasgaribaldi>

# WHAT SHELLEY DID ON HER HOLIDAYS

*Beekeepers around the world are generally speaking most interesting in meeting beekeepers from other countries to learn, to exchange ideas and experiences. This can happen at the Apimondia congresses and symposia. But as the short story below shows it also happens with informal contacts through you local organisations. Myself I have in my former position traveled to many countries to meetings with officials. But the best part of the travelling was meeting the hospitality of local beekeepers.*

*Thank you all.*

*Former president of Apimondia, Asger Søgaaard Jørgensen*

## STUART FRASER, CHAIR, APINZ EDUCATION AND SKILLS FOCUS GROUP

As the plane took off from the United Kingdom last December to head across the world to a beekeeping adventure/learning holiday in Northland, Shelley Glasspool momentarily questioned her sanity in taking such a bold step.

Leaving friends and family behind for Christmas to travel to the other side of the world to learn more about beekeeping, in a completely different setting to her usual routine, can best be described as a sense of adventure and a desire to learn more about her chosen profession.

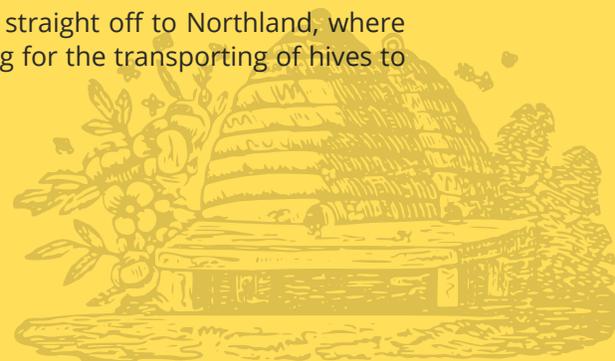
Her brief misgivings changed to elation not long thereafter as she flew in a helicopter inspecting hive sites in the Central North Island with Mana Kai Honey.

Shelley's path to an apprenticeship through the British Beekeeping Association (BBA) is a little different to the one we know in New Zealand. She needs a sponsor, a job and has to maintain her own records to present to the BBA as her course progresses.

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After two days in Auckland to catch up with old friends, it was straight off to Northland, where temperatures were climbing and preparations were in full swing for the transporting of hives to central North Island locations for the mānuka flowering there.



The range of activities, the teamwork and the scale were all significant differences for Shelley. Her role in the Cornwall business owned and operated by Jo Widdicombe is on a smaller scale and with a different purpose.

Jo has been breeding the native black honey bee as a specialist conservation operation for almost 30 years and Shelley's apprenticeship is a recent welcome addition to the business.

Shelley's typical day involves queen rearing, grafting and cell checking. Her workingtime with Mana Kai Honey has been a lot more varied and on a much larger scale of operation.

Bobby Leef and Sera Grubb of Mana Kai both have a lot of experience in dealing with travelling workers and were excited to have another female on the team as it adds new dynamics to teamwork. It's a totally natural way to extend the personalities and capabilities of all involved.

There is a greater degree of interest in why things get done differently in other places that wouldn't otherwise happen, Sera says. It makes the team think a little bit more about what they are doing and why—and it also helps them to care for each other a little more than they normally might.

Bobby is really pleased that Shelley's can-do attitude, alongside her interest to learn, has set her in good stead with the team.

He said, *"Shelley came to us with a decent level of experience that really helped her settle in with the guys. Although her UK business is a lot smaller, she readily picked up our commercial approach and was able to help us with a few astute questions to our approach as well."*

Mana Kai Honey has had a range of temporary travelling workers through the years and clearly the experience is of value to both parties. It helps with our own perspective on where we are at.

Shelley's advice for anyone thinking about taking on a beekeeper as a learning experience would be to ensure that both the incoming beekeeper and the host business prepare well in advance.

Something we possibly already know ...



**Shelley Glasspool**  
**UK BEEKEEPER SHELLEY GLASSPOOL.**



# CURRENT STATUS OF BEE-POLLINATORS IN LATIN AMERICA

**MARINA BASUALDO<sup>1,2</sup>; KARINA ANTÚNEZ<sup>2,3,4</sup>;  
FABRICE REQUIER<sup>2,3,5</sup>**

1.- FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS VETERINARIAS, PROANVET-  
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DEL CENTRO DE LA PROVINCIA DE BUENOS  
AIRES, TANDIL, BS. AS. ARGENTINA.

2.- LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BEE RESEARCH, SOLATINA

3.-SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION ON POLLINATION AND BEE FLORA,  
APIMONDIA

4.- DEPARTAMENTO DE MICROBIOLOGÍA, INSTITUTO DE  
INVESTIGACIONES BIOLÓGICAS CLEMENTE ESTABLE.  
MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

5.- INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES EN RECURSOS NATURALES,  
AGROECOLOGÍA Y DESARROLLO RURAL, UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE  
RIO NEGRO - CONICET, SAN CARLOS DE BARILOCHE, RIO NEGRO,  
ARGENTINA

The Latin American and the Caribbean region have a great variety of climates, since it covers southern and northern hemisphere. The tropical, subtropical and temperate climates present in the region determine a rich and varied vegetation which support a great diversity of pollinators, including solitary and social bees (Figure 1). Stingless bees together with honey bees, attain the highest level of sociality among the superfamily of the Apoidea. Stingless bees are native in Latin America (LA) and include a large diversity of 300 species over 30 genera (from 400 described species worldwide) (Velthuis 1997). In particular, LA hosts the most primitive genera of stingless bee such as *Plebeia*, as well as the most evolved ones like *Scaptotrigona* and *Melipona*.



Figure 1- Latin America hosts a large diversity of bees including solitary as well as social species such as stingless bees and honey bees. Credit photo: Pablo Cavigliasso

From a cultural point of view, stingless bees (mainly Meliponini tribe) are particularly important in LA since native human communities have managed them, as Mayan civilization, to produce honey. Nowadays the “meliponiculture” is an important activity not only for the trade of this distinctive honey, but for the sustainability of native rural communities.

The western honey bee (*Apis mellifera* L.) was introduced in America in the 17th century (Eva Crane, 1984). The European subspecies *A. m. iberica*, *A. m. ligustica*, *A. m. carnica* and *A. m. caucasica* were firstly introduced; while the African subspecies *A. m. scutellata* was introduced into Brazil in 1956. African and European subspecies hybridized, originating the “Africanized honey bee” that spread throughout the continent. Africanized honey bees are considered as polyhybrids due to in some regions at least three subspecies of European bees coexisted previously to the introduction of *A. m. scutellata*. Different outcrosses and recombination processes led to generation of local ecotypes with morphological, behavioral and physiological proper features (Basualdo et al. 2001).

Meliponiculture is performed mainly in the tropical-subtropical regions meanwhile Beekeeping is performed in a wide range of climates including the most southern region of the world (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Diversity of environments for beekeeping in Latin America

The great diversity of wild bee species as well as introduced honey bees, confers the region unique characteristics. The ecosystem service carried out by bees is invaluable from an ecological perspective, being essential for the maintenance of the diversity of native plants, conservation of forest and several natural ecosystems. Furthermore, the interspecific interactions between Apis and non-Apis bees in many crops which benefit from pollination, may increase the pollination effectiveness of individual species.

## **ROLE OF BEES IN CROP POLLINATION**

Solitary bees have an important role as pollinators of various cultivated plants. At least 28 species from ten botanical families could benefit from its pollination, as Apocynaceae, Anacardiaceae, Bixacea, Cucurbitaceae, Solaneaceae, Fabaceae, Passifloraceae which include the passion fruit, west Indian cherry, melon, beans, pumpkin, squash, egg-plant, tomato, cotton and sweet pepper, between others. Ground-nesting bees from the genera Centris, Epicharis and Exomalpsis, have been reported as good-pollinators of various crops (Imperatriz-Fonseca et al. 2006). Cavity nesting species as Xilocopa, Centris, Megachile, Anthidiini, Tetrapedia are also abundant. Despite the potential use as pollinators of various cultivated crops, the rearing techniques of solitary bees are only available for a few species as Bombus spp., Peponapis ssp. and Xylocopa ssp. (Garibaldi et al. 2017). Most solitary bees are difficult to manage and are not used on a commercial scale in the region.

In the case of Bombus spp., at least 42 species have been recorded in a great variety of habitats, ranging in altitude from sea level to about 4400 m in the Andes in the Neotropical Region of Latin America (Abrahamovich and Díaz 2002). Some native bumble bee species are promising for using in crop pollination. For instance, in Argentina, native Bombus atratus has been domesticated and is commercially used in greenhouses and open areas, as pollinator of blueberries, strawberries, kiwi, red clover, and onion. On the other hand, exotic bumble bees such as B. terrestris and B. ruderatus have been introduced in Chile for its use in crop pollination. However, it spread over the south of Argentina, severely affecting native pollinator populations.

In addition, stingless bees are diverse in tropics and subtropics region of Latin America and are used, in some cases, as crop pollinators (Garibaldi et al. 2017). At least nine species of stingless bees from Amazon could be used for pollination programs. Tropical crops demands pollination services from stingless bees for several native and exotic crops cultivate, for instance, strawberry, coffee, assai, coconut, mango, avocado, guaraná among other several crops. The overall importance of this pollination service is considerable, while Latin America produces the 32 % of the global production of tropical fruits, estimated at 93.7 million tons in 2017 (FAOSTAT 2019). Moreover, various species of Melipona spp. could be good pollinators in greenhouse or provide buzz pollination.

Finally, honey bees are the main pollinators in the temperate climate countries, contributing to more than 80% of the pollinator-dependent agricultural production, including fruit trees, avocado, blueberry, strawberry and orange. Nevertheless in LA, there is no strong tradition of using supplementation of honey bees for the pollination of pollinator-dependent crop, except in Chile. In intensive cropping systems (Figure 3), as commonly present in part of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, the use of honey bees become more important since the native bee populations are low and thousands of hectares need be pollinated. Managed honey bees are necessary for hybrid seed production systems and oilseed crop as sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) or oilseed rape (*Brassica napus*). The management of Africanized honey bees as pollinator could be difficult for some cropping systems, as in apple orchards, due to the requirement of management of the orchard and the high defensive behavior of the bees, however, some advantages have been reported when are used for hybrid seed production. Africanized honey bees are very active pollen collectors making them good pollinators in those systems where is necessary the pollen transport between male-fertile and male-sterile lines as sunflower (Basualdo et al. 2000).

## THREATS AND CHALLENGES

Main threats for bees in Latin America are directly or indirectly related to human activities, and include agriculture intensification which promotes the intensive use of herbicides and pesticides, deforestation which led to habitat loss and landscape fragmentation, and biological invasions.

The Amazon rainforest is the largest expanse of forest in the world, shared by nine countries of our region and its being fiercely cleared. This intense deforestation is due to wood extraction, cattle pasture, and, more recently, expansion of soybean. During the last decade, crop production in the region has grown faster than the world average as result of the impact of agricultural intensification (FAOSTAT 2019).

Consequently, plant and animal diversity decreased dramatically, diminishing bee nesting and feeding opportunities and kills adult and larval bees by using agrochemicals and by ploughing the soil.

Latin American and Caribbean produce more than 23% of the world's meat and contributes with more than 17% of the world production of oilseeds and 13% of the fruits (FAOSTAT 2019). This more intensive farming and larger fields of crops overcomes the capacity of native bees to pollinate, because of the scarcity of native populations, thus the availability of honey bees is necessary to satisfy these increasing needs for pollination.

## NETWORKS: ENHANCING INTERACTIONS

Recently, the Latin-American Society for Bee Research, SOLATINA was created as a large-scale platform to coordinate bee research programs in LA (see more details in [www.solatina.org](http://www.solatina.org)).

SOLATINA includes a consortium of more than 150 researchers from 12 LA countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, México, Perú and Uruguay) representing 90% of whole territory and 91% of the beehives, which reach approximately 10 million of beehives (Antúnez et al. 2018). In addition, the honey production is around 196 mil ton that correspond to 32% of total honey volume exported worldwide (FOASTAT 2019).

This cooperation can be of crucial importance to solve issues of bee health, bee conservation, pollination service and emerging pest. Five priority areas were identified and working groups created to stimulate interest-based interactions within members of the Society.

As an illustration of outcomes stimulated by the Society, the “Monitoring of colony losses” working group aims to survey the colony losses over the continent. Indeed, there is clear evidence of high colony losses of managed honey bees in the USA and Europe; however surveys of honey bee colony losses are incipient in LA.

Based on the experience of national-wide initiatives and of interaction among more than 50 bee researchers over LA, the “Monitoring of colony losses” working group has first recorded all the data available on the colony losses over the last 10 years to produce an adapted questionnaire to LA (Requier et al. 2018). The survey of colony losses in LA is carried out since 2017 using this unified questionnaire, and records the mortalities of managed honey bees and stingless bees (Figure 4). More information is available at <http://solatina.org/perdidias-2016-2017> (in Spanish and Portuguese only).

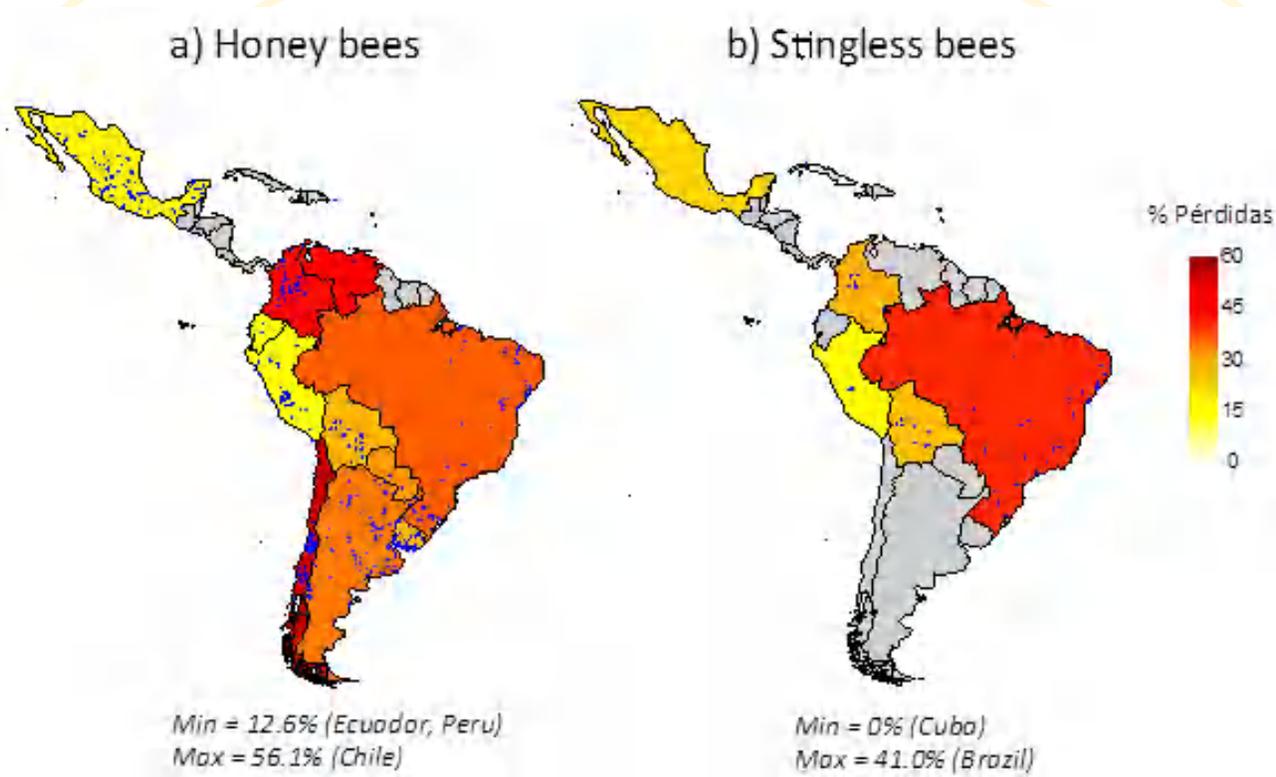


Figure 4- National average of the colony losses of(a) managed honey bees and (b) managed stingless bees during the season 2016-2017 (Oct. 16 to Oct. 17) in Latin America. More than a thousand of beekeepers participated to the survey. Blue dots show the location of the responses.

In LA, there is also a critical lack of data on the status of pollinators and pollination. In this sense, efforts have been focused to promote networking to share online directories and database of Institutions in order to monitoring bee diversity in the region.

In addition, the SOLATINA working group of “Products services and added value” which considers pollination as an ecosystem service is focusing on data acquisition of pollinator dependent crops. As there is no global integrated information in this aspect, analysis of data obtained in different latitudes will allow know the characteristics and demand of crop pollination in the region. Considering that LA plays a major role in the global food supply, it is necessary to increase awareness of the value of pollinators to food security.



**FANI HATJINA**  
PRESIDENT OF BEE HEALTH SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION

# **THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FINALLY AGREES THAT WE NEED HIGHER PROTECTION MEASURES FOR BEES AND POLLINATORS**



**THE TOXIC RAINBOW**

Independent research is continuously showing adverse effects from agro-chemicals, especially neonicotinoids, on bee behaviour, physiology, fertility and even mortality of colonies. Similar results come from laboratory as well as from semi-field and field studies, when field realistic doses are used. Still it has been difficult to convince the European Parliament to support the higher risk assessment measures proposed by the beekeeping sector.

The EU Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, states that pesticides must have "no unacceptable acute or chronic effects on colony survival and development, taking into account effects on honeybee larvae and honeybee behaviour". Based on that, and after a strong battle initiated by several environmental and beekeeping organizations, in December 2013, the European Commission restricted temporarily the use of 3 highly bee-toxic neonicotinoid insecticides, namely imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam. In April 2018, almost 5 years later of the partial ban on these substances, and after lots of new scientific knowledge came in to light, the Standing Committee finally voted in favour of a continuous ban on all outdoor uses of the three pesticides.

This decision was based on in-depth assessment of these pesticides' risks to bees, carried out by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). using its own guidance document, the Bee Guidance Document. The BGD is the only comprehensive and up-to-date manual till now that describes in details and in a scientific way how to assess the impact of pesticides on all pollinators, including acute and chronic toxicity. Honey bee, bumble bees and solitary bees are all included in the BGD.

However, these three pesticides are not the only ones posing a risk to bees. Other substances have also been shown to have adverse effects on the health of bees especially after chronic exposure. Apimondia, together with 80 other beekeeping and environmental organizations, which form the Save of Bees Coalition, believe that only if all pesticides are regulated to the same high standards as these three neonicotinoids, EU will be able to protect the bees and other pollinators effectively.

Both the Commission and EFSA have repeatedly stated that they support the 2013 Bee Guidance document. But Member States have blocked its application in the Standing Committee on Plant, Animal, Food and Feed. The EC in its 2018 EU Initiative on Pollinators (July, 2018) submitted a proposal for a step wise implementation of the EFSA BGD to the SCoPAFF, starting with the protocols to assess acute, chronic and larval toxicity on bees, for which internationally agreed guidelines are available.

However, in its October 2018, December 2018 and January 2019 meetings, Member States rejected this proposal. It was after that time, that the European Commission started to elaborate a "compromise" Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 546/2011, according to which:

- Only the section of the EFSA BGD concerning the acute toxicity tests, and only for honey bees will be used: the adoption of all other sections will be postponed until the publication of a "revised" version of the EFSA BGD.

- key tests to assess the risk of pesticides on bees (as chronic toxicity and larval toxicity) will be left out and the effects of pesticides on pollinators other than honeybees will be ignored until a review of the EFSA BGD takes place.

In other words, the new proposal by the Commission would not improve the present assessment scheme, but it would rather take years and threaten the survival of pollinators, while adopting the test protocols already available and internationally validated, could already make the difference for the survival of all pollinators in the EU.

The "Save the Bees Coalition" with all 80 NGOs and beekeeping organizations, including APIMONDIA, started a new battle against the Commission's draft proposal. First on the meeting of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee of the European Parliament and immediately after on the plenary meeting of the European Parliament a veto to Commission's draft regulation was placed. On Monday 21st October 2019 the ENVI Committee rejected the Commission's regulation with 62 votes in favour, 4 against and 7 abstentions. Finally on Wednesday 23rd October 2019, the European Parliament approved the objection with 533 votes in favour, 67 against and 100 abstentions. The European Parliament with this decision confirms the will to achieve higher levels of protection standards for bees, other pollinators and environment.



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. 11th Greek Honey Festival

<http://www.greekhoneyfestival.gr/site/index.php>

2. International ANSES –EFSA

Scientific Conference on Bee Health: Contribution of Research on Risk Assessment . December 9th, 2019.

<https://www.anses.fr/en/content/international-anses-efsa-scientific-conference-day>

3. Iranian Honey bee Congress 2020

<https://coloss.org/event/iranian-honey-bee-congress-2020/>

4. ApiSlovenia 2020 fair

<https://www.messeninfo.de/Apislovenia-M8888/Celje.html>



[www.apimondia.com](http://www.apimondia.com)



From the editor

The Apimondia Newsletters are meant to bring information and position papers from the Apimondia executive council to the members as well as presentation of important scientific activities performed by Apimondia and its commission.

We will bring information about international events organised by Apimondia and its commissions, and events in which Apimondia are taking active part.

You as a member association, institution or individual member of Apimondia are welcome to distribute the newsletter to your members, colleagues or contact.

The newsletter is planned to be published 3 - 4 times a year.

You can find more information on the Apimondia website: [www.apimondia.com](http://www.apimondia.com)

Proceedings from the Apimondia congress 2019 in Montreal, Canada has been uploaded.

Apimondia is on **Facebook**. Search for: Apimondia federation.

Apimondia on **Twitter**: search for: Apimondia

**Apimondia has close cooperation with FAO:**

"Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations" Have a look at the TECA website: <http://www.fao.org/teca/categories/beekeeping/en/>

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