

PROMISING RESILIENCE PRACTICES



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION



Beekeeping boosts incomes in Uganda. Credit: RWANU

Building Resilience through Strengthening value Chain of Natural Dryland Products

Introduction

Karamoja has a number of natural products with economic potential such as aloes, honey, gum Arabica (*Acacia Senegal* and *Acacia seyal*), tamarind (*Tamarindus Indica*), shea nut (*Vitellaria paradoxa*) and desert date (*Balanites aegyptiaca*). Of these products, honey is the most exploited for commercial purposes.

The Karamojong have been collecting wild honey for years using traditional beehives. The beekeepers sold their honey individually to other community members or hawked it in periodic markets. The demand for honey is growing and is potentially lucrative. However, the use of inefficient beehives coupled with lack of knowledge on processing and handling to produce quality honey, and poor market linkage have

restricted the growth of honey production. Supporting local communities in the production, processing, and marketing of honey would enable them increase their income from their natural products.



INTERVENTION AREA

Enhanced production and livelihood diversification



STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

Communities (men and women); District Local Government; Non-governmental Organisations; Honey traders

Methodological Approach

Beneficiaries received training on apiary management and quality-improvement practices. Some equipment (smokers, boots, gloves, etc.) was needed. Provision of efficient Kenya Top Bar hives.

Results

- 120 apiary farmers have been trained on apiary management and a further 72 on honey processing, about 20 percent of them being women.
- 16 local artisans have been trained in fabrication of low cost beehives using locally available materials.
- The price of honey increased fivefold from UGX 1,500/kg (US \$ 0.42) in 2015 to UGX 7,500/kg (US \$ 2.11) in 2017.
- Honey production is now appreciated as a viable source of income.
- A honey collection centre was established, providing ready market for honey.
- 680 honey producers in Karamoja were linked with Kampala-based Golden Bees, one of the largest honey buyers in Uganda.
- The alternative income source has reduced reliance of households on firewood and charcoal sales as coping strategies, which is good for the environment.
- Honey production requires flowering trees which is causing the communities to preserve the trees.
- Income from honey sales have supported the acquisition of household assets and have reduced the need to draw on household savings and assets to meet basic needs, further supporting accumulation of wealth.
- It has stimulated the entry of more buyers into the market, e.g. buyers in Iriiri, Napak and Karita who process, pack and sell Karamoja honey in Kampala, while others come from Kenya.

Validation

Participants in Focus Group Discussions and in-depth interviews acknowledged that better apiary management, honey processing and better prices obtained for their honey had increased their earnings and benefited them.

Success Factors

- Training to ensure quality honey is produced that can attract committed buyers and fetch good prices.
- Linking honey producers and buyers to ensure market for the product.
- Use of efficient beehives.

Constraints

Continued threats to the environment from bush burning and tree cutting which affect honey production.

Sustainability

Creating market linkages to ensure ready market for the honey. The entry of more buyers in the Karamoja market means competitive prices are offered to farmers, thus ensuring that the honey production remains a viable and sustainable business.

Replicability and Up-scaling

This good practice is easily replicated as it harnesses locally available natural dryland products.

Additional Information

ACDI/VOCA (undated). RWANU Market System Interventions and Resilience Report. Kampala.

District Local Governments

Oxfam Uganda (northern Uganda) <https://uganda.oxfam.org/>

RWANU – ACDI/VOCA (southern Karamoja), <http://www.acdivoca.org/tag/resiliency-through-wealth-agriculture-and-nutrition-rwanu/>

CONTACTS

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