

Project Update: March 2015

In December 2014, the project purchased 20 modern beehives for the beekeeping group members in Kimbo and Shembekeza villages. With four beekeeping groups comprising of 40 members; five beehives were provided to each group and were installed in the selected apiaries.

During a recent monitoring visit an impressive progress was observed. Nine out of 10 and five beehives have been colonized in Kimbo and Shembekeza villages respectively. Low colonisation rate in Shembekeza village is attributed to beehives being placed within the forest reserve where there is no adequate light due to forest canopy and also invasion of the beehives by ants and other insects. Group members were advised to relocate the uncolonised beehives to suitable locations and regular inspection of the beehives was emphasised to facilitate speedy colonisation. Villagers are very optimistic that they will start harvesting honey and associated products in not too distant future.

Encouragingly, having acquired knowledge on making beehives during training members at Shembekeza village were found finalising construction of additional 10 beehives using their own resources while at Kimbo village members were mobilising materials to begin making additional beehives.



Left: One of bee-keeping group members standing next to the colonized beehives in Kimbo village. Right: The tutor and farmers in protective gears smoking the bees in order to inspect the traditional beehive as part of the training at Shembekeza village. Bottom Left: Farmers-beekeeping group members attentively following up the tutor during the training at Kimbo village. Bottom Right: Flourishing wild fruits within Amani Nature Reserve. The ideal environment for modern beekeeping.