

## Project Update: September 2014

Recently (22<sup>nd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> July 2014), the project coordinators organised a 4-day training course for beekeeping group members. This was done in collaboration with the Muheza District Forestry department involving District Forest Officer and District Beekeeping Officer. An experienced tutor was hired from Olmotonyi Forestry College in Arusha to offer the training. This training which brought together 40 members from Kimbo and Shembekeza villages was an “eye opener” to the trainees.



Figure 2- 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

keeping, benefits and challenges around both practices. Yohana Mlongahilo, a participant from Shembekeza village who owns traditional hives remarked: *“The knowledge I have gained on the importance of putting on protective gears while inspecting hives and harvesting honey is very important. Over the years I have been harvesting honey without using any protective gear something which is very challenging. It would be helpful if the project could support us with a few sets of protective gears and we will be buying our own in future”.*



Figure 1- Farmers-beekeeping group members returning attentively following up the tutor during the training at Kimbo village

On a visit to a beehive site Gerald Kazipombe from Kimbo village had this to say: *“What we observed at the apiary is a clear explanation that the owner of the beehives had no appropriate knowledge on bee-keeping thus he could not inspect and manage his beehives as required”.*

The participants acquired detailed basic knowledge on modern beekeeping and appreciated the remarkable differences between traditional and modern bee-



Figure 3- Explanations on modern beehives given to farmers in one of the training sessions