

Project Update: August 2016

Project implementation is on the track despite some recorded challenges. The new beekeeping groups formed in February 2016 are making good progress. All 20 beehives allocated to the respective groups were hung/installed in the selected apiaries. A few beehives have been colonised and it is anticipated that the rest will be colonised in the not too distant future. Group members have continued to routinely monitor and inspect beehives to ensure they are habitable. Likewise, the old beekeeping groups are progressing reasonably well. Harvesting of honey is already being recorded, though not in a large quantity as yet. Recently, one group in Kimbo village harvested 3 kg of honey, while their counterparts in Shembekeza village harvested some 4 kg which were sold at TZS 10,000 (equivalent to 4US\$) per kg. Interestingly, some of the groups have gone a step further to construct new beehives on their own using local materials (trees) and local carpenters (fellow group members) with an average of 5 to 10 additional beehives constructed. Members are increasingly getting experience and developing keen interest in modern beekeeping. Clearly, such developments create sense of ownership and sustainability of the project.

Conversely, across groups some challenges and hiccups are being experienced. Some of the group members lack commitment to take part in regular group activities notably inspection and cleaning of the beehives, some beehives take too long to get colonised due to various factors like being invaded by vermin, inappropriate location and so on. Lack of systematic data collection and record keeping among group members is also one of the challenges. Certainly these are many of the issues that need to be addressed prudently for a more vibrant and impactful beekeeping in the East Usambaras.

In the meantime relocating beehives to the apiaries deemed more apposite and sensitisation of group members to fulfil their responsibilities by group leaders and village leaders are some of the measures being pursued in the field.



Left: The project grantee handing over beehives to the Chairman of the "Mapatano" beekeeping group in Kimbo village. Right: Beekeeping group members from Shembekeza village searching for apiaries within the Amani Nature Reserve (ANR)



Left: "Beehive management" - A bee keeping group member inspecting & cleaning beehives at Kimbo village. Right: Beehive management- Beekeeping group members inspecting & cleaning a beehives



Members of one the beekeeping groups shifting beehives to a more suitable apiary.