

## Project Update: July 2016

We have already organised five seminars for honeybee breeders in five different locations: Lagodekhi, Ozurgeti, Kutaisi, Gori and Zugdidi. Since we have targeted specific segment, farmers, it seemed bit challenging to discuss with them biodiversity and conservation issues. However, a back door approach such as starting meetings with practical matters of the beekeeping has allowed us to shift on endemic honeybee protection topic, importance of prevention of external gene flow and revision of the honeybee breeding strategy.

We have reminded beekeepers that, in spite of being managed by human beings, honeybees still belongs to the nature and represent a vital part of ecosystem. Thus, there is huge responsibility for beekeepers to manage honeybees properly, follow rules, understand real risks of uncontrolled breeding strategies and foresee threats of introgression which results in irreversible outcomes – losing a unique set of local biodiversity. We are visiting apiaries situated in mountainous places and collecting samples.

