

Project Update: December 2017

Community Group Training In Kwale County, December 2017

- Objective: To train group community members on beekeeping.
- Members Expectations for the training: beekeeping practices to deter problem elephants, beekeeping as enterprise.
- Method: Teaching, demonstration, illustration and discussions.
- Materials used: Flip charts, markers pens, demonstrating beehive, harvesting kits, note books and pens

Title of the Activity: Why Beekeeping as an option?

Venue/ Place:

- i) For Lukore group training held at CBO office (in Lukore centre).
- ii) For Mkongani group training held at Mkomba primary school,Mkongani location.
- iii) For the other mixed groups representatives training held in Kinango school.

Participants: They were driven from community groups of Lukore group, mkongani group and representatives of the other three groups (mtsangatamu, lutsangani and kinango).

Each group had 9 or 10 members in addition to Kenya forest service representative and facilitators.

Rationale: This training was set after a previous group discussion (in November 2017) that identified lack of basic knowledge on beekeeping and the expression of the community members on training all them on beekeeping.

The Specific Objectives Were:-

1. To identify the training areas and needs of the group.
2. To train the group on beekeeping.
3. Enhance capacity of members and discuss ways of overcoming challenges on bee keeping.

Proceeding: The training began by first prompting each member of the expectations they had towards the training. The trainer then used a combination of flipcharts to note down key words from discussions, illustration kits on harvesting honey while members took notes. The various aspects that were taught ranged from introduction to beekeeping, populating beehives, bee products, harvesting, storage and value addition, beekeeping and conservation and honey bee enemies and how to manage.

Group discussions on how to acquire the beehives was also done. Members gave several suggestions including training youths in hive making, members contributing their trees to make the hives and also co-sharing the cost of purchasing hives from the market.

Although some of the members were willing to donate trees for making the hive, it was seen as involving as it needed supervision of the carpenter to make sure that they

are made with right specification and also the type of the tree they had was not the recommended for hives. Therefore, other alternatives were to be considered.

Output/s and Achievement:

- The meeting was carried out as per the scheduled timeframe.
- Nearly all the participants involved/invited managed to attend (9 out of 10) for every group training.
- Every participant was given a chance to participate during the discussion.
- All members were willing to participate in beekeeping at the proposed forest edge.

Key Challenges:

- Poor road network due to the ongoing rains in the region.
- Majority of the youths in the area had relocated to urban areas and therefore the group composition involved few youths.

Lessons Learned/ Recommendations:

- There was a general willingness of the members to be actively engaged in beekeeping but inability to acquire even the basic requirements was the greatest challenge.
- Participants were not exposed to the dynamics of beekeeping and other entrepreneurial activities.

Way Forward:

- To provide regular training on beekeeping.
- Conduct a capacity building to beekeepers at their apiary sites.
- Adequate sensitization and involvement of community in beekeeping.
- Participants urged to have self-engagement in issues to do with beekeeping and seek local authority for assistance on community development

