



Apimondia

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

Apimondia Working Group number:	AWG 6
Name:	Adulteration of Honey Working Group (formerly known as Ethical charter for the international honey trade)
Date of Creation:	18th September 2015 (formerly 09/10/2010)
Place of Creation:	Daejeon – Korea (formerly Mulga – Turkey)
Scientific Commissions Involved:	Beekeeping Technology & Quality Beekeeping Economy
Regional Commissions Involved:	Five Regional Commissions
Documents provided:	AWG 6 – 09/10/15 – initial paper
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Deadline:	Survey design – Draft 10th October 2015 – Etienne Bruneau Summary of Meeting & Draft Apimondia Working Group Document – Draft 10th October 2015 – Jodie Goldsworthy Work Group plan and deadlines to be advised – Norberto Garcia
Targets / Stakeholders:	Beekeepers + traders + packagers & marketers + laboratories + consumer associations + policy makers & government authorities
Background:	<p>Initially Working Group 6 was set up to address the issue of honey adulteration through the development of an Apimondia Ethical Charter on Honey Trade (AECHE). It was to publish articles or reports on the health concerns presented by adulterated honey. It was to conduct studies on product reliability and represent the beekeeping sector on matters within the scope of the Working Group.</p> <p>Since the Working Groups inception in 2010 all sectors of the industry have not really known how to handle the issue of honey adulteration and have feared damaging the good reputation of natural honey from negative publicity on this issue. In 2015 the members of the working group determined that lack of communication and publicity is facilitating the work of the adulterators.</p> <p>Since 2010 new scientific test methods have been established which are helpful in disrupting the adulterators. Laboratory testing combined with good traceability systems and models, and open communications now provide the opportunity to address this issue. It is critical that the issue is addressed as it currently threatens the viability of beekeeping globally.</p>
Observation & Actions:	<p>General Objective: To contribute to a fair trade in the international market for naturally produced honey which preserves the image and value of honey as a noble, pure and natural product.</p> <p>Specific Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To focus the attention of the working group on honey adulteration. 2. To work proactively against situations that endanger the prestige of honey to consumers. 3. To provide protection for beekeepers, packers and other members of the commercial honey chain in cases of unfair trade. 4. To help protect the health of consumers. 5. To encourage compliance with laws related to international honey trade. <p>Responsibilities: Only honey is concerned, not other bee products. The Working Group will take action and study all cases, disputes or complaints that allegedly put at risk the reputation of the product, as well as those cases presumed to violate ethics in the international honey trade, such as;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Campaigns, commercial trends or new regulations that, not having the proper scientific endorsement, may discredit the nobility, purity and properties of honey. 2. Dumping charges to a particular exporting country. 3. Honey circumvention cases. 4. Repeated devents of honey adulteration from an exporting country. 5. Situations in which the establishment of a para-arancelaria

barrier to trade in honey is suspected.

The Working Group will not take action for:

1. Disputes in domestic trade of honey within a country. In this case the Working Group may advise the local Beekeepers Association member of Apimondia.
2. In case of disputes involving an individual enterprise and not involving a real danger of generalisation to other players in the market.

The group will not engage the responsibility of Apimondia in any action in court in case of problems.

Actions:

The Working Group may act “of its own motion” on topics that fall under its responsibilities with the simple consensus of its members or shall also act on request of any member of Apimondia with previous analysis of its competence in the requested subject.

The main activities of the Working Group include to:

1. Work to facilitate co-operation between all stakeholders to work together to solve the problem.
2. To communicate the problem of honey adulteration and the position of Apimondia on this issue globally and in particular alert policy makers on this issue.
3. To develop a globally accepted definition for honey and honey adulteration that covers aspects of food safety, quality, dilution and mislabelling. Natural honey definition should not allow for adulteration with added sugar substitutes or other sweetener extenders, or use of inappropriate additives in the production of honey.
4. To develop an appropriate communications strategy and plan that allows the objectives of the Working Group to be achieved.
5. To draft and conduct an initial global honey adulteration survey of Apimondia member beekeeper organisations through working with Apimondia Regional Presidents and Member beekeeper experts to verify the authenticity of the information contained within the survey.
6. To create a “Global Honey Databank Project” that facilitates the sampling of authentic honey collected from reputable beekeepers from around the world with the view to building a global databank of naturally produced honey, produced from different regions and botanical origins of the world.
7. To facilitate the sharing of the global databank with reputable laboratories and relevant stakeholders.
8. To seek funding from FAO or others for the “Global Honey Databank Project”.
9. To explore ways of developing a Rapid Alert Type system within Apimondia that shares cases of adulteration amongst Apimondia members as they become known.
10. Represent the beekeeping sector on matters within the scope of the working group.
11. Other actions expressly ordered by Apimondia Executive Committee.