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PERSPECTIVES FOR ORGANIC BEEKEEPING IN BULGARIA

Stoilko Apostolov
BIOSELENA, Foundation for Organic Agriculture

4300, Karlovo, 36, Vassil Karayovanov, Str. tel. +359 335 9 20 38
tel/Tax: +359 335 9 16 42
E-mail: headoffice@bioselena.com

1008, Sofia, 1, Macedonia, Str. tel: +359 2 91706 45
E-mail: bioselena@mail.bg

5300, Gabrovo
2, Elisaveta Popantonova Str.
tel/Tax: +359 66 80 52 27
E-mail: biogabrovo@mbox.digys.bg

Dinko Dinkov, PhD

TRAKIA UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of “Hygiene, Technology and Control of Animal Foodstuffs, Veterinary Legislation and Management”, 6 000 Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

Bulgaria is situated in south-eastern Europe. In the north-western part of the Balkan Peninsula and has a territory of 110,912 km², bordered to the north on Romania, to the south - on Greece and Turkey, to the west - on Serbia and Macedonia (former Yugoslavia) and to the east - on the Black Sea.
(http://www.alpbulgaria.eu/en/)

The climate is a typical Mediterranean type. The Bulgarian temperate climate is characterized by temperate temperatures with dry and cold winters and hot and dry summers. The average temperatures in February range from −3 to 4 °C, and from June to August from 19 to 27 °C. The average of annual precipitation is about 570 mm. The growing season (for annual crops) lasts 190 days.
(http://www.naturza.bg)

With length of 600 km² and width of 300 km², Bulgaria is 22% of the Balkan Peninsula.
(http://www.exp固定的.com/bulgaria)

The honey bee species Apis mellifera, as well as Apis cerana, are present in Bulgaria. The species Apis cerana indica is only found in the Black Sea coastal region. Honey production in Bulgaria is carried out primarily with Apis mellifera. The main honey beekeeping areas are the coastal areas along the Black Sea and the Danube River. The area of intensive beekeeping is 200,000 km². The total population of honey bees in Bulgaria is over 2 million hives.
(http://www.naturza.bg)

For 2003 are certified 23 038 bee farms, produced 863, 8 t organic bee products (http://www.naturza.bg).

In 2010 farms do not count the exact number of agricultural areas from Bulgaria in connection with EC requirements (http://lesosetstvo-noros.ru/). In spite of the lack of animal husbandry information about the current situation for all agricultural areas, we could analyze data from the last available counting from 2003 (http://aftvnet.org/bg/img/bul03/04/).

From the data the total agricultural area in the land was 29044, 8 km². If we adopt 100% total agricultural areas from Bulgaria (103 493 km²), we see that workable agricultural areas amount to 26.7% (29 044. 8 km²), and the rest 73.3% (79 444. 2 km²), most belonging to uncultivated areas (Fig. 1).

We could generate that, if it could be proved a great ecological value for bee hives from uncultivated areas (Shigabanov, 6, 2006. Contents of bee products, Review article Antioxid., SIA/08-AS6/02 Bioresearch, 806 12-135, year: 2008/6, 37, 1-16) and with the legislative institutions policy, it could be possible to increase production for more and with the best quality organic beekeeping products in Bulgaria.

Fig. 1. Comparison between cultivated (29 044, 8 km² - 26.7 %) and uncultivated (79 444, 2 km² - 73.3 %), areas in Bulgaria (103 499 km² - 100 %)