Beekeeping in Lebanon: from traditional to organic

Dany G. El-Obeid & Pauline Y. Aad
Sunny Beach, Bulgaria
28 August 2010
1. Beekeeping in Lebanon.
2. Organic Agriculture in Lebanon.
3. From traditional to organic.
1- Beekeeping in Lebanon
Lebanon in a glance

- **Location**: Middle East bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Palestine and Syria
- **Geographic coordinates**: 33°50'N, 35°50'E
- **Area**: 10452 sq Km
- **Population**: 3.67 millions
  - 90% urban
- **Climate**: Mediterranean
Crops

• Variety in lands and climate
  – Citrus fruits
  – Olives
  – Fruits including tropical fruits
  – Vegetables
  – Industrial crops: Tobacco, Sugar beat
  – Forages and medicinal plants
  – Grapes and Wine production
Modern beekeeping

• Lebanese indigenous honey bee is the Syrian bee (*Apis mellifera syriaca*).
• Langstroth hives were introduced in 1938.
• Before then, honeybees were traditionally reared in clay jars (jraar) or baskets (Sillal).
• Today 98% of beehives are of the Langstroth type with movable combs.
• In 1949 the creation of the first beekeeper cooperative.
• 15 cooperatives all over the country
• 140 000 hives and 7000 beekeepers
• Honey is main hive product..

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honey production</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hives (1000 hives)</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>118.8</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production (tones)</td>
<td>1070</td>
<td>1095</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Productivity kg/hive</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sum 10^6</td>
<td>$ 14.60</td>
<td>$ 16.67</td>
<td>$ 12.00</td>
<td>$ 14.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average price / kg</td>
<td>$ 13.67</td>
<td>$ 15.25</td>
<td>$ 14.81</td>
<td>$ 15.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Distribution of the beekeepers through the country
## Survey of the ministry of agriculture 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Bee keeper</th>
<th>Hive number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2- Organic Agriculture in Lebanon

- **Certification organisation:**
  Two certification organisations in Lebanon: LibanCert and IMC

- Organic associations in Lebanon: Association for Lebanese Organic Agriculture (ALOA)

- LIBNOR (Public institution attached to the Ministry of Industry) develops standards and is the sole agency

- A national regulation is awaiting parliament approval and is still not mandatory
Organic Production Area (Total: 2490 Ha)
Organic beekeeping

- Bees’ Origin: no local selection program
- Apiaries Locations: 3 Km distance.
- Feeding: Organic sugar
- Disease prevention and treatments:
- Husbandry management practices:
- Characteristics of hives and materials used:
- Authorized products for cleaning and disinfecting:
- Authorized products for pest management:
Towards Organic

- A dream
- Increase of reserves area
- Adoption of the biological pest management especially on the costal area of Lebanon
- Queen rearing
- A way to improve the common practices in Lebanon towards more bee’ friendly practices
Thank you for your attention

arcenciel NGO, John Kennedy Street,
Jisr el Bacha, Sin el Fil, B.P. 16 5216
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel  00961 1 495561
Fax  00961 1 512107
Mob  00961 79 195134
Email  danyo@arcecnciel.org
Website  www. arcecnciel.org