



# **BEKEEPING IN KENYA: THE CURRENT SITUATION**

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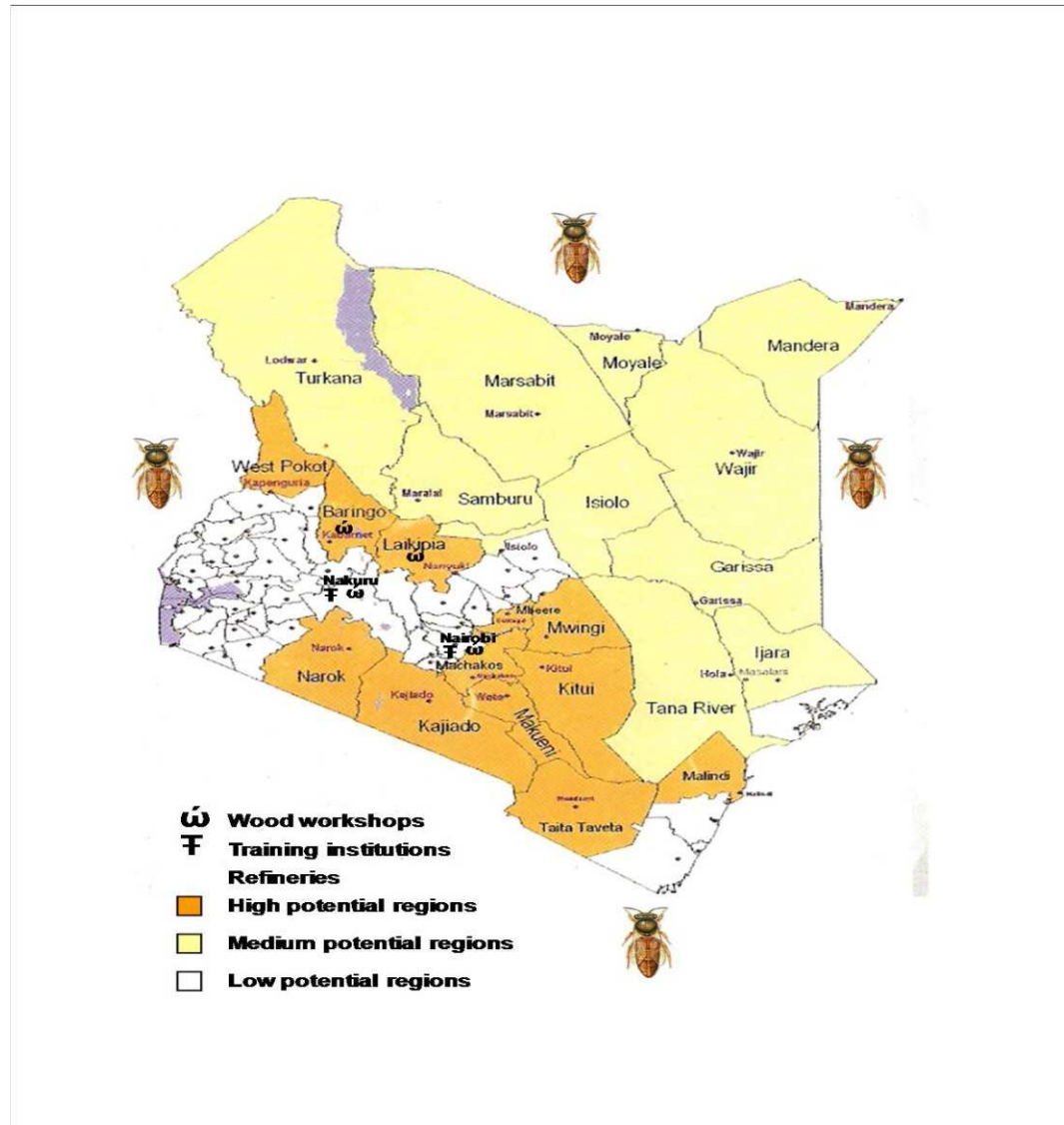
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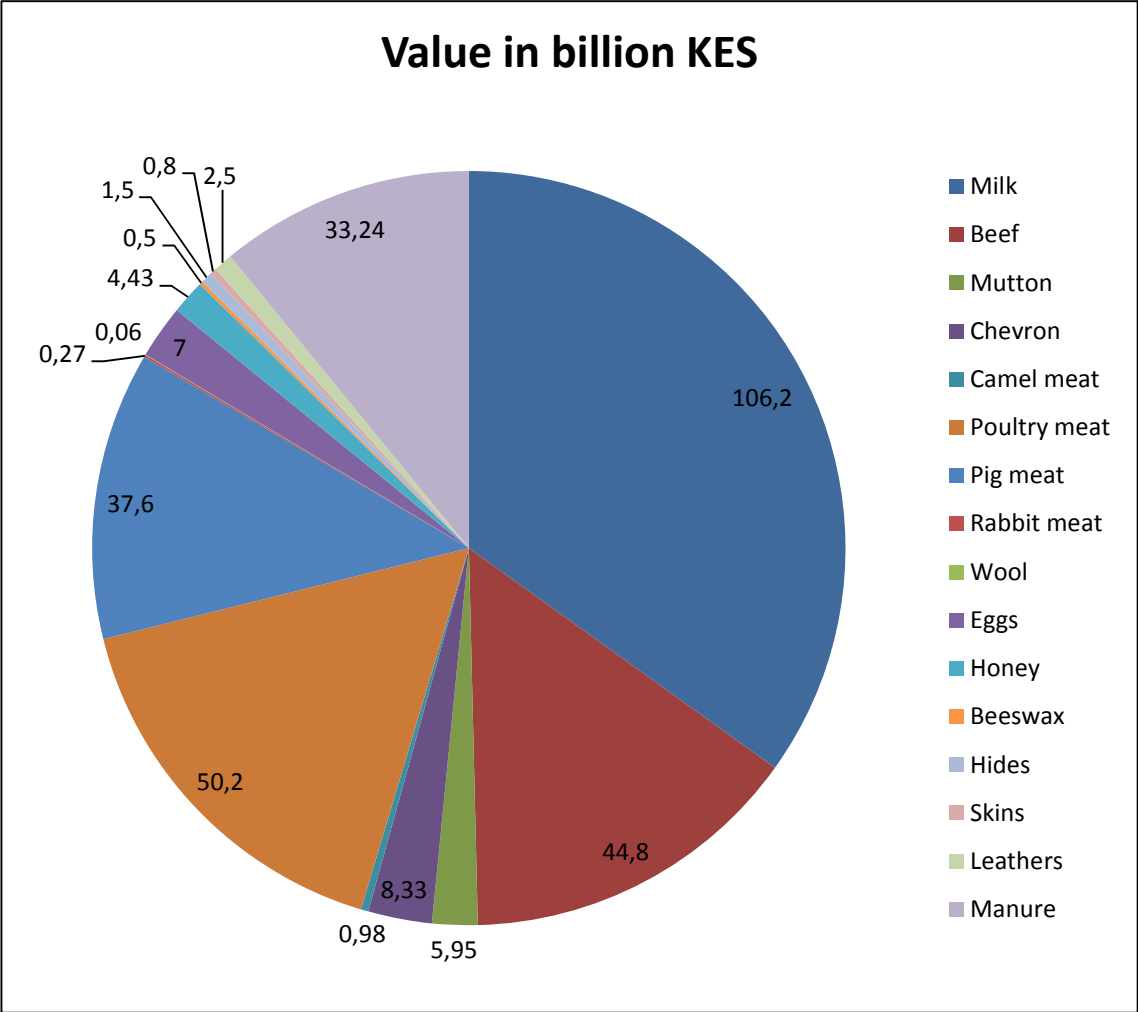
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# **INTRODUCTION**

Bee keeping is a valuable enterprise within the Kenyan Agricultural sector, contributing about 4.3 billion Ksh. From honey production alone, estimated at 25,000 MT annually

# Map 1: Republic of Kenya showing bee races and high productivity areas in Beekeeping





## INTRODUCTION CONT....

- Beekeeping industry provides income to 90,340 farmers. An average of 900 persons are employed formally in 104 equipment manufacturing units. National dependency ratio is 1:6
- An estimated No. of persons benefitting directly from beekeeping is 547,440

# INTRODUCTION CONT...

- Indirectly, bee industry supports many persons in confectionery, Pharmaceutical, herbal, brewing, cosmetics, transporter, suppliers of packaging material and other players along the Beekeeping value chain

Beekeeping complements Agriculture.  
It contributes to the National Policy objectives spelt out in the strategic plan and 'vision 2030'

**Emphasis:**

1. Food security (38.3 M people)
2. Increased household incomes thro' value added hive products
3. Employment creation (esp. Youth)
4. Increased access to markets
5. Conservation of the environment

# INITIAL PARTNERS

1. Oxfarm – UK
2. Canadian International Agency for Development (CIDA)



# Policy and legal framework

- National Livestock Policy
- Livestock Strategic Plan
- New Constitution
- Vision 2030
- Beekeeping policy
- Honey monitoring Plan

## **UNDERWAY FOR REALIZATION OF THE VISION**

- Performance contracting
- Linkage of work plans to Budget and strategic plan
- Appropriate strategies on employee wellness, work ethics and attitudes

# **Implementation of the beekeeping strategic Plan**

Linked to:

The New constitution with 47 Counties in the entire Kenya

Vision 2030 Medium Term Plan (2008-2012)

Agriculture sector Development Strategy (ASDS)

Beekeeping Policy

Honey monitoring Plan for residues in honey and adherence to Best Practices in beekeeping

# LOCAL INITIATIVES

- **Youth Enterprise Fund**
- **Women Enterprise fund**
- **Constituency Development Fund (CDF)**

Have been successful to some extent. They have their unique hiccups

# Current programs

- ALLPRO – Asal-Based Livestock & Rural Livelihoods Support Project (ending)
- NALEP – National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme (ending)
- ASCU – Agricultural Sector Coordinating Unit (restructuring)
- GTZ – German Agency for International Cooperation

# CHALLENGES

Despite the country's great potential in beekeeping, there are challenges of:

- Low production
- Low technology adoption
- Capacity building
- Declining bee colonies due to climate change

# Resources

- Well trained to medium trained personnel
- National Beekeeping Station with Laboratories, woodworkshop, refining, training and other facilities, hence room for expansion
- Virgin tracks of land (away from agricultural land, hence free from pesticide effect)

# **PREVIOUS SUPPORT IN CAPACITY BUILDING**

- **PROINVEST – EU**
- **BEES FOR DEVELOPMENT**



# Transformational approaches

1. Commercialization of beekeeping through Pollination, honey and Beeswax sales
2. Value addition of products & Industrialization
3. Technology adoption
4. Bee health
5. Enhanced investment in Beekeeping
6. Increased Market access for beekeepers
7. Enhanced Institutional efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery
8. Gender approaches to Beekeeping

# FUTURE PLAN

- Strengthening Apicultural research
- Capacity building
- Encouraging and sustaining strong Beekeeper Associations and an Apex body
- Sustained Private/Public Sector Partnerships
- Strengthened collaboration with research/training Institutions
- Iso certification of Honey quality analysis Laboratories

# OPPORTUNITIES

- Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation
- Research and technological advancement
- Human resource development
- Developing/Managing & Disseminating Beekeeping Information and Technologies that promote Production e.g queen rearing
- Proposals and concepts for further Beekeeping support from our Development Partners, esp. With the National Beekeeping Station's New mandate as a higher training Institution

# CONCLUSION

- There is great untapped potential in Beekeeping, both in ASAL areas and high rainfall areas
- There is need for technology adoption to forge ahead with transformational measures for enhanced production
- Capacity building along the beekeeping value chain a must

**THANK YOU**