



# ASSESSMENT OF THE HONEY BEE COLONY LOSSES IN REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA FOR THE WINTER SEASON 2007/2008

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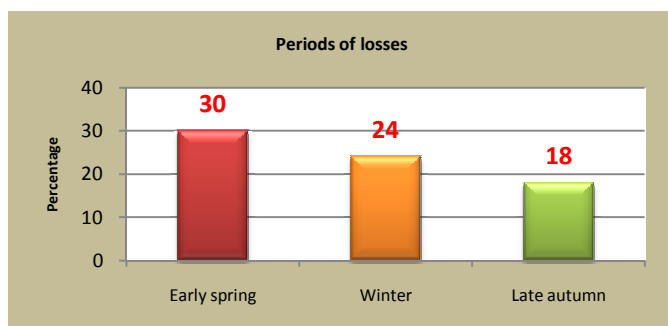
## Background

The Macedonian beekeeping sector includes approximately **10.000 beekeepers** who own in total **approximately 75.000 honey bee (*Apis mellifera L.*) colonies**. The present institutional system does not keep any official record regarding the number, rate, seasons and reasons for honey bee colonies losses in the country. For that reason, during the last autumn, we have produced and distributed questionnaires to beekeepers from all regions in the country. **209 questionnaires**, from the same number of beekeepers which represent **2,09% of the total population of beekeepers in the country**, were correctly fulfilled and returned back for statistical analysis. The number of the assessed colonies within the mentioned questionnaires was **12.420**, representing **16,56% of the total honey bee colonies population in the country**.

## Methodology

The distributed questionnaire consist 4 basic questions:

- Number of honey bee colonies in autumn 2007
- Number of lost honey bee colonies in the period of autumn 2007 – autumn 2008
- Period (months) of the losses
- Cause of the losses



## Results

The first results illustrated the current situation of honey bee colonies losses where the average rate of the losses is **20,20%**. The most vulnerable season is early spring when **30,41% of the colonies died from main reason - lack of food (27,84%)**.

There is **NO AVAILABLE DATA** for diagnosed **IAPV** or **Nosema ceranae**.

