

Apimondia

41st International apicultural congress

Montpellier, France

September 2009

Linkages between beekeeping for rural
development and issues of human development
and food security

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Introduction and overview

Linkages between rural development and issues of human development and food security

Illustration of individual notions

Definition of mainstream approaches adopted

Alternative views

Implications of new approaches and the expected outcomes

How beekeeping can impact on these three dimensions

Conclusions

Rural development

What do we mean by rural development?

Endogenous or exogenous?

Some elements for consideration of rural contexts & livelihoods:

- rural population features --> large “unskilled” workforce, low salaries and relatively low levels of literacy
- poverty and health issues
- vulnerability to environmental patterns
- limited investment and poor/obsolete infrastructure
- education and training shortcomings
- role of agriculture as basic subsistence means

Rural development

Mainstream approaches

Focus on higher productivity and economic outcomes

IFIs' approach (structural adjustment and conditional lending, “one-size-fits-all” paradigm)

Top-down and focus on industrial agricultural models with low ownership involvement by the recipients - Green Revolution

Effects of exploitative and extractive models on environment

No attention to local knowledge assets

Ambiguous and potentially detrimental role of market on weak rural agents

Rural development

Attention to more holistic approaches

Sustainability at micro level (V. Shiva)

Leveraging on local realities and knowledge

Focus on local trade

Recognition of a gradual process pattern of growth and asset accumulation

Role of local associations and institutions and the problem of “voice”

Role of taxation and contribution to social spending

Less focus on merely financial aspects and more attention to fostering (impartial) knowledge and empowerment

Human development

What do we mean by human development?

A. Sen's capability approach theory

Building up capabilities for functionings and the role of individual agency

Freedom of choice and self-determination

360° development of the individual

Basic needs important, but not enough

Women's role and the importance of education

Livelihood analysis and SEAGA

Food security

What do we mean by food security?

4 dimensions: availability, access, utilisation and stability

Implications and benefits

Nutritional aspects and their impact

Importance of food production self-sufficiency

Women's role and the importance of education

Food sovereignty concept

Right to food

Linkages and role of beekeeping

Model of development that is/has:

- affordable and simple
- low cost and low input
- sustainable and environment-friendly
- non-extractive and non-exploitative
- social dimension
- role in pollination and biodiversity
- close relation with agriculture

Linkages and role of beekeeping

(cont'd)

- source of livelihood options
- applicability to value chain model
- incremental features for integrative processes
- good diversification potential and quality development trail
- incremental impact on local skills, capabilities and trade
- impact on food security dimensions
- improvement of nutritional requirements and parameters

Linkages and role of beekeeping

(cont'd)

- key role in recovery processes and degraded environmental contexts
- social inclusion potential for poorer and more neglected sectors of rural population
- accessible source of income for landless fringes of rural peasants (subject to clear definition of property rights and use of public goods)
- positive externalities provided by beekeeping

Conclusions

Beekeeping has a highly beneficial role for rural development

Development project design should be conceived to include other aspects than just economic and productive outcomes

Look at holistic development of rural people

Leverage on high ratio of output achievable with low input starting levels

Foster new understanding of beekeeping potential with funding agencies avoiding common mainstream pitfalls

Support women's role and involvement in rural development through more structured empowerment overcoming social and cultural constraints

Increase awareness of role of beekeeping in food security impact on rural people development

Conclusions

(cont'd)

Increase awareness of role of beekeeping in food security and relevant impact on rural people development

Thank you for your attention

and... enjoy the congress