Improvements of regulations on organic farming to facilitate the practice of organic beekeeping

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Good beekeeping Practices

• Young and productive queens
• Ensure pollen and nectar sources for bees
• Access to water
• Feeding when necessary with the proper feed
• Replace combs regularly
• Manipulate bees with methods that cause them less stress
• Sufficient reserves of honey and pollen for the winter
• Precaution measurements against bee diseases
• Proper use of pharmaceutical products
• Good handling of bee products.
• Avoid adulteration
Good beekeeping Practices

Organic beekeeping

Conventional beekeeping

Healthy bees,
Pure, natural and safe products
Rules, Restrictions & Supervisions

- Reg. 834/2007
- 889/2008

- Siting of the apiaries
- Controlling bee diseases
- Replacing the combs (conversion period)
- Feeding bees

- Clipping queen's wings
- Not destroy drone brood

Control bodies
Competent authorities
Reg. 889/2008. The siting of the apiaries

**Article 13**

The member states *may* designate regions or areas where beekeeping complying with organic production rules, is not practicable

**Article 78**

Where no areas are identified by the member states, the beekeeper *shall* provide the control authority or control body appropriate documentation and evidences including suitable analyses that the areas meet the **conditions** required by the regulation.

**Article 13**

The siting of the apiaries shall be such that, within a radius of 3 Km from the apiary site, nectar and pollen sources consist essentially of organically produced crops and/or spontaneous vegetation and/or crops treated with low environmental impact methods which cannot affect the qualification of beekeeping production as being organic.
1. How to qualify the beekeeping production as organic?
2. What documentation, evidences or analyses do they need?

Residues from agrochemicals

Honey, Wax, Pollen, ?

What level?

Explicit definite clear Applicable to everyone in the same way

0.1 ppm ?
?
10 ppb ?

? 5, 15 ?
The siting of the apiaries shall be such that, within a radius of 3 Km from the apiary site, nectar and pollen sources consist essentially of organically produced crops and/or spontaneous vegetation and/or crops treated with low environmental impact methods which cannot affect the qualification of beekeeping production as being organic.

(article 13 of regulation 889)
Propose amendment to article 13 of regulation 889

The siting of the apiaries shall be such that, within a radius of 3 Km from the apiary site, nectar and pollen sources consist essentially of organically produced crops and/or spontaneous vegetation and/or crops treated with low environmental impact methods which cannot affect the qualification of beekeeping production as being organic cause contamination* of bee products

* Contamination: Contamination of wax/honey in levels higher than ???? mg/Kg

“Apiaries shall be kept at sufficient distance from sources that may lead to the contamination of beekeeping products or to the poor health of the bees” (Reg. 834 article 14.b)

Agrochemicals, motorways, industrial areas, waste dumps
Viruses & Rickettsial

Protozoa

Fungi

Contagious diseases

Bacteria

Parasitic diseases

Pest and predators

Sacbrood

Paralysis disease

American Foulbrood

European Foulbrood

Nosema disease (N. apis, N. ceranae)

Chalkbrood

Stonebrood

Tracheal mites

Varroa
Viruses & Rickettsial

Bacteria

Protozoa

Fungi

Contagious diseases

American Foulbrood

Nosema disease (N. ceranae)

Parasitic diseases

Pest and predators

Varroa
Synthetic acaricides against Varroa mites

- Tau-Fluvalinate
- Coumaphos
- Flumethrin
- Apistan
- Cymiazol

Natural non toxic substances against Varroa mites

- Thymol
- menthol,
- Camphor
- Eucalyptol
- Oxalic acid
- Formic acid
- Lactic acid

Conventional beekeeping

Organic beekeeping (Reg 889 article 25.6)
Article 25 Specific rules on disease prevention

4. If despite all preventive measures, the colonies become sick or infested, they shall be treated immediately.

7. If a treatment is applied with chemically synthesized allopathic products, the colonies treated shall be placed in isolation apiaries and subsequently, the conversion period of one year is laid down.
Propose amendment to article 25 of regulation 889

4. If despite all preventive measures, the colonies become sick or infested, they shall be treated immediately.

7. If a treatment is applied with chemically synthesized *allopathic* products, the colonies treated shall be placed in isolation apiaries and subsequently, the conversion period of one year is laid down.
Conversion period (Reg 889, article 38)

3) Beekeeping products can be sold with references to the organic production method only when the organic production rules have been complied with for at least one year.

5) During the conversion period the wax shall be replaced with wax coming from organic beekeeping.

- Gradual replacement
  - Residues
- Direct Complete replacement
  - No residues
Direct and complete replacement of the combs: Bees should be fed with syrup to build their combs
Feeding (Reg 889 article 19)

• Feeding bees *is permitted only*

During the overwintering period, feeding is required to stimulate early spring activity. Feeding shall be with organic honey, organic sugar syrup, or organic sugar 15 days before the start of the next nectar harvest.

Also in case of long lasting exceptional weather conditions or catastrophic circumstances which hamper the nectar or honeydew production (article 47), feeding may be necessary.

Feeding shall be with organic honey, organic sugar syrup, or organic sugar.
Propose Amendment to the article 38 of the regulation 889

Beekeeping products can be sold with references to the organic production method only when the organic production rules have been complied with for at least one year after the complete replacement of all combs of the colonies.

B. Feeding
• Provision regarding pollen or pollen substitutes in periods of shortage
• Provision for feeding bees during conversion period and replacement of combs by the direct method
Please think about these amendments to the regulation. They may help to raise awareness to more beekeepers about organic farming.

THANK YOU