



PALAR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

(A Unit of R.S. Educational and Charitable Trust)

(Affiliated to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University)

Melpatti Post, Vellore district, Tamil Nadu – 635 805

AEN 451 COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPING (0+10) EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAMME TOUR REPORT

COURSE TEACHER: Mrs. S. Sowmiya M. Sc., (Agri.)

Assistant Professor – Agricultural Entomology

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VISIT TO AO HONEY BEE FARM

Vatrampalayam,
Edappadi, Salem District,
29.08.2024.

- We have been visited AO honey bee farm at Vatrampalayam, Edappadi, Salem district on 29/8/24. It was started in 2019. Total area covered around 1.5 acres.
- Mr. Annamalai sir, explained about the beekeeping, different species of honey bees and their characters, bee diseases, bee pests, bee castes and its roles.
- They are selling natural honey, bee boxes, bee propolis, bee wax etc...and also practiced sting therapy for treatment for osteoarthritis.
- This farm conducting training programs for students and farmers.
- He explained about stationary beekeeping and migratory beekeeping and they also supplying the honey boxes in large scales to farmers field like coconut farm, mango farm, banana farm, Arecanut farm.
- They are supplying honey bee boxes in 25 places and also done continuous monitoring.
- He practically shown how to handle the bee boxes, division of colony, isolated the queen by using queen cage and explained how to prepare sugar feed for honeybees in dearth period. The sugar feed should be (1:1) ratio (sugar: water).





➤ He explained about different honey bee species briefly.

1. Rock bee - *Apis dorsata*

- This is the largest of honey bee which construct the single comb.
- Annual yield of colony ranges from 10 to 12kg.
- Its sting is very poisonous.

2. Italian bee- *Apis mellifera*

- Annual yield of colony ranges from 25 kg /year.
- Sources of honey from mustard, sunflower, apple, litchi.

3. Little bee - *Apis florea*

- It constructs the single comb.
- A colony yield about 0.5to 1kg of honey per year.

4. Indian bee - *Apis cerana indica*

- It constructs several parallel combs in trees, between rocks, bushes, inside wall, roof of houses and other hidden sites in the plain and forests.
- The Annual yield of honey is 3to 5kg per colony.

5. Dammer bee - *Tetragonula iridipennis*

- Dammer bee comb is small and it made of cerumen.
- The Annual yield of honey is 100gm per colony per year.
- It is used in Ayurvedic medicine.

- He also shared about experience of beekeeping, practical knowledge and motivated with his success story to inspire the students.
- We learned practical idea about queen rearing division, uniting of colonies, honey Extraction, pest - disease and they controlled.
- He also rearing honey bee in glass box which was made by glass mainly for conducting training purpose.



Explaining about the wax moth attack and control

- He explained about honey season which start from Jan to July. At that time, they were harvested the honey and divided the healthy colony.
- The brood season is June to December at that time they provided sugar feed artificially and colony sterilization will be done.
- The cost of half kg honey is ₹.250 and 1kg honey is ₹.500.
- In this visit, we gained knowledge on bee keeping and producing of natural honey, propolis and bee wax.



Rearing honey bees in glass box for monitoring



Our staff member Ms. Sruthi got experience about Bee-Keeping through this visit



Finally, we taken group picture with Mr. Annamalai