

Doubling Income of Small Cardamom Farmer (Mr. Raju) of Idukki District, Kerala through Pollination Service by *Apis cerna indica* Colonies and Value Addition of bee products

Problems:

Low yield and quality due to inadequate pollination is major problem of small cardamom producing farmers. Inadequate pollination in crops is due to several factors including lack of adequate number, diversity of pollinators and value addition.

KVK Support:

Mr. Raju learnt bee-farming and value addition technical support from KVK and he started beekeeping in 2007 with financial support from KVK. With an investment of Rs.10, 000 and twenty boxes to rear the bees. Mr. Raju earns about a lakhs rupee per month, and rears bees in more than 22,000 boxes and running a High range Beekeeping Society in Idukki. Mr.Raju sells him honey to 14 districts in Kerala and also participates in a number of exhibitions across the country.



High range Beekeeping unit at Kattapana



Received awards from DE-KAU

Doubling Income of Small Cardamom Farmer (Mr.Raju) of Idukki District, Kerala through effective pollination by *Apis cerna indica* colonies and value addition of bee products



Received awards from PAO-Idukki



ICAR-ATRAI Director, Bangalore Visited Beekeeping unit at Rajakumari.

Bee-keeping status in the High Range Beekeeping Society – Idukki, Kerala

Particulars	2014-15	2015-16	2017-18	2018-19
No. Of colonies established	310	1652	3010	4242
Total Honey production (in ton) @ 4 kg/box	860	3812	8025	11416
Income from sale of Honey (Rs. In Lacs @ 170/kg.	1.46	6.48	13.26	19.40
Number of bee colony (5 frame) sold per year	210	444	1210	3010
Income from sale of colony (in Rs. Lacs @ 1600/colony)	3.36	7.14	19.36	48.16
Total income from Beekeeping (Rs. In lacs)	4.82	13.62	32.62	67.56

Bee-products sold status in the High Range Beekeeping Society – Idukki, Kerala

Particulars	2014-15	2015-16	2017-18	2018-19
Honey with Amla	75 kg	380 kg	910 kg	1210 kg
Honey with Garlic & Ginger	160 kg	650 kg	845 kg	935 kg
Honey with Pomegranate	60 kg	910 kg	520 kg	780 kg
Pollen	10 kg	48 kg	145 kg	240 kg
Royal Jelly	90 nos.	210 nos.	670 nos.	825 nos.
Bee Wax	400 nos.	600 nos.	1560 nos.	2300 nos.
Total income from Value addition (Rs. in lacs)	6.75	9.25	16.72	27.16