

Project Update: April 2016

The formation of beekeeping groups and training of the new beekeeping group members were successfully conducted in the project villages of Shembekeza and Kimbo. This exercise was done on 5th and 9th February 2016. Relevant steps included conducting general village meetings through which the participants were informed about the project and the need for forming beekeeping groups. A range of conditions and criteria for joining the groups were highlighted: membership should be open and voluntary; each group should be composed of both females and males; members should have common interest; members should have interest in beekeeping; members should be hard working; where necessary members should be ready to provide financial contribution to enhance group activities for instance construction of beehives; a member should be ready to work in a group; the group should neither be too big nor too small; it should be composed of a minimum of five members and maximum of 10 members; its formation should not be politically motivated and group members should elect their leaders.

At the end, four groups were formed, two in each village. The names of these groups are “Chapakazi” (Work Hard) and Upendo (be devoted to) in Shembekeza village and “Tumaini Jipya” (New Hope) and “Nyuki ni Mali” (Bees are Money) in Kimbo village respectively, each group is composed of 10 members (both women and men).

The formation of the groups was followed by training to the group members. The training was conducted on 16th and 17th February 2016 in Shembekeza and 18th and 19th February 2016 in Kimbo village. The training was organised and conducted by the District Bee Keeping Officer and his assistant and covered a wide range of issues including but not limited to the overview and general understanding of bees and beekeeping, suitable area/location/apiary for beekeeping, beehive construction, equipment and techniques for bee keeping and harvesting of honey and related products.



Left: The Muheza District Beekeeping Officer giving training to the new beekeeping group members at Shembekeza village. Right: Group members identifying an apiary at Kimbo village



Left: Group members attentively following during training at Kimbo Village. Right: Women taking part in searching and identifying an apiary in Shemebekeza village