

Project Update: July 2017

In line with the project work plan, the first and second activities (formation of new beekeeping groups and training) have been implemented successfully. On 16th June 2017 two groups namely “Aha n’ ndima du” (a local name which literally means “work and nothing else”) and “family group” were formed in Kimbo village. Likewise on 17th June, 2017 two groups were formed in Shembekeza village and were given the names of “Mapatano” and “Chipukizi” respectively. Each group has 10 members composed of both males and females, hence a total of 40 new beekeeping group members.

This exercise was followed by the training to the respective group members on 11th and 12th July, 2017. The training was conducted in the “Shembekeza Hall” at Shembekeza village. The training covered a range of issues including but not limited to: background to the beekeeping in Tanzania, benefits of beekeeping (conservation and income generation), requirements for improved beekeeping, seasons for beekeeping, honey harvesting and timing and hive construction. At the end of the training the participants expressed their views. Of their views was that the training was an “eye-opener” in so far as improved beekeeping is concerned. The training clearly inspired the participants who pledged to use the knowledge acquired to undertake beekeeping industriously for livelihoods improvement and an eventual conservation of the adjacent forests. “The training was superb! what will also be helpful is that we have learned a great deal from the previous beekeeping groups, and we will capitalize on any mistakes they ever committed in the course of doing their beekeeping activities”. This was a remark by one of the training participants.

The formation of the new groups was undertaken by the village members themselves based on a range of pre-set criteria and was overseen by the Beekeeping Officer (focal point). On the other hand preparation and undertaking of the training were done collaboratively by the District Forest Officer and Beekeeping Focal Point.

In the meantime the process is underway to procure the 20 beehives and a few sets of protective gears for distribution to the new beekeeping groups.



Picture 1 & 2: New beekeeping group members attending training, at Shembekeza village – “Shembekeza Hall”



Picture 3: The District Forest Officer giving training to new beekeeping group members



Picture 4: A beehive used for demonstration during beekeeping training



Picture 5: One of the training participants in a bee protective gears as a "usage demonstration" during training