

# Bees for development Ethiopia

*Sustainable beekeeping   Sustainable livelihoods   Sustainable markets*

**Bees for Development Ethiopia** is Ethiopian resident charity registration number No. 2753

Our Mission is to teach best practices in beekeeping to secure sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities in harmony with the environment

## Objectives

- Delivering beekeeping training to vulnerable communities to build sustainable and resilient livelihoods;
- Helping beekeepers to secure best value for their bee produce by accessing strong market chains, which are fair and rewarding;
- Ensuring that honey bee populations thrive as a result of environmental protection and the use of sustainable methods;
- Enabling beekeepers to access high quality, relevant information about methods, market opportunities and policy developments.

## About us

**Bees for Development Ethiopia** was founded in 2012. The Director is an experienced development professional and beekeeper and an expert in appropriate beekeeping technologies. BfDE is governed by five senior Board Members all with professional backgrounds in development and livelihoods. Day-to-day work is carried out by a team of staff based in offices in Bahir Dar, Amhara. To achieve our objectives we deliver projects in collaboration with Government and other NGOs and institutions who share our aims and values.



### Appropriate technology

BfDE promotes the use of top-bar hives. These movable comb hives have all the technical advantages of frame-hives (sometimes called modern hives) but have additional economic and social advantages too;

- Beekeepers can make their own from locally available materials - this means they can upscale their beekeeping activities without further donor support
- No need for associated expensive inputs such as foundation sheets and extractors
- Low cost - using top-bar hives, the same budget can reach eight times more farmers than with frame hives

*"We now promote only top-bars hives in Dera - the uptake from farmers is better than with frame hives and so the impact is greater", Beekeeping expert, Dera woreda.*

### Skills training for men, women and youth

We provide in-depth training for farmers through a seasonal programme of three modules of training in year 1. We make sure new beekeepers have access to follow-up and refresher training in year 2. We train Development Agents where necessary so they have the capacity to provide on-going support to beekeepers in their working areas. This ensures new beekeepers always get the technical help they need.

*"My neighbour has seen how I have benefitted and they have asked me to train them. I am willing to do that - I can now do everything on my own and even train others", Getahm in Wonjeta.*

### Bee-friendly land use management

Bees use the nectar from trees to produce honey - thus giving communities an added economic reason to plant, manage and conserve trees in farmland and the wider landscape. We;

- Work with communities to invest in rehabilitation of degraded land
- Train farmers to raise fruit trees which give nectar and fruit - bees increase yields through pollination
- Create awareness about the dangers of agrochemicals and their impact on bees

*"I was trained on how to graft improved mango. The trees will give me fruit to sell and my bees will collect nectar from the flowers and make honey". New beekeeper in Dera*

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