

AN ANALYSIS OF THE FACTORS INFLUENCING BEEKEEPING IN UGANDA:

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Apiculture in Uganda is for the most part still carried out using traditional management systems. The majority of beekeepers in the country are peasant (rural) farmers who utilise traditional hives placed out in trees or staked above the ground to trap local honeybees. Many of these beekeepers belong to some kind of organisational structure which promotes their interests and promotes collaboration with other beekeeping groups or market outlets. In spite of the constraints that the industry faces, there is tremendous potential for growth as illustrated by the latest production estimates for honey and beeswax in the country, the favourable agroecological conditions and the interest shown by beekeepers. The challenge to date is to adequately harness this interest for the development of the industry, for example, through research on honeybee flora and races of the local honeybee *Apis mellifera*, product development and the development of suitable market outlets for honey and beeswax.