INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON BEE-KEEPING AND EXTENSION METHODS
25TH APRIL - 25TH JULY 1979
BACKGROUND

Since 1960, the Foreign Training Department of the Israel Ministry of Agriculture's Extension Service, in collaboration with the Division for International Co-operation of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has trained over 10,000 people from the developing nations in various agricultural subjects, through hundreds of courses and training programmes for individuals and groups both in Israel and abroad. The International Course on Bee-keeping is one of these courses. It is organized with the assistance of the Bee-keeping Division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

THE HISTORY OF BEE-KEEPING IN ISRAEL

The history of bee-keeping in Israel may be traced to Biblical times. Honey is mentioned in the Bible and was always considered to be an essential ingredient in the diet which contributed greatly to health and strength.

The modern system of bee-keeping goes back half a century when early settlers used wooden hives. Since then, the techniques of the past have developed into the advanced practices of today. The bee most commonly kept today in Israel is the Italian bee, *Apis mellifica* L. Var. Ligustica Spin. At present, some 50,000 hives are kept by 500 bee-keepers located all over the country. The excellent yield of honey, its quality and the development of other new uses of the colonies such as the pollination of crops have been the result of a coordinated effort among the various governmental and private bodies in the fields of research, extension, marketing and promotion of the branch. A special improvement and experimental station has been established where advanced techniques of artificial insemination are being developed to improve the genetic quality of the colonies. Research into the invention of new mechanised tools for the rationalization of production methods is also being undertaken.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The course is intended to train the participant in modern methods of bee-keeping and to instruct him in ways to improve production through proper management, sanitation and production methods. In addition, the trainee will be taught effective methods for disseminating know-how to farmers through proper extension methods.
METHODS OF STUDY

Studies are geared to lectures, discussions, exercises, laboratory work and field trips. Approximately one month is devoted to practical training. During this period, the participants will live in cooperative settlements, take an active part in all aspects of bee-keeping and work alongside local farmers. The course will also include the preparation of a final project.

PROGRAMME OF STUDIES

1. The Bee Colony
   - Biology of Development
   - Biology of Reproduction
   - The Adult Bee Worker
   - Elements of Behaviour
   - Communication in the Colony

2. Nutrition

3. Methods of Production
   - Migration
   - Honey Extraction
   - Honey Processing
   - Use of By-products

4. Sanitation
   - Pests
   - Diseases and Their Prevention

5. Equipment
   - Types of Hives
   - Protective Equipment
   - Processing Equipment

6. Organization and Management
   - Economics of Production
   - Apiary Management
   - Marketing
7. Introduction to Methods of Research

8. Methods of Extension
   Principles of Extension
   The Lecture
   Visual Aids
   Group Demonstrations
   Teaching Skills

DURATION AND LOCATION

The course will last for three months. It will be held at the Ruppin Institute of Agriculture near Netanya. The dates of the course correspond to the spring and early summer months when the weather is warm and pleasant.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND SIGHT-SEEING

There will be organized excursions to the Holy Places as well as to sites of general and historical interest. Social and cultural activities will be arranged.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Candidates must be animal husbandry technicians or extension officers with a secondary or higher education, a background in bee-keeping and three years of practical experience in the field. A good command of written and spoken English is essential.

COST AND APPLICATIONS

The monthly fee per participant is U.S. $850. - which includes tuition, board, lodging and travel provided in the programme of studies within Israel. It does not include travel costs to and from the home countries and incidental expenses.

Application forms may be obtained from the nearest Israeli diplomatic or consular representative, or by writing directly to:

Ministry of Agriculture
Extension Service, Foreign Training Department
P. O. Box 7054
Tel Aviv, Israel

Completed applications should reach the appropriate address no later than March 1st, 1979.