



Basic Beekeeping Manual 1



This manual is dedicated to tomorrow's beekeepers. With thanks to all the African Beekeepers who helped to make this manual possible, especially those at Nkhata-bay Honey Producers Cooperative, Malawi.

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Editorial assistance provided by Gay Marris, UK National Bee Unit (fera)

How to Use this Manual



It is now well accepted that beekeeping can offer people in rural villages a way of generating additional income. However, beekeeping is not always easy. The bees can sting and are often unpredictable. The honey harvest depends on many factors, including the weather and on having a good market. High value honey must be of good quality. Beeswax is also a useful product, which is often wasted.

This field manual is designed for use by field-based trainers in sub Saharan Africa. It is based on colour pictures with few words. The manual covers basic techniques needed to start a beekeeping business. It also offers some new ideas to help beekeepers to become independent by making their own equipment from local materials. I hope that this will help people to start beekeeping at an affordable cost, and maybe to experiment with new materials.

The pictures show some of the many different ways that people keep bees. This is intended to promote discussion and shared experiences to help people to solve problems locally. The manual concentrates on top bar hive beekeeping but many of the techniques and ideas can also be used by traditional and frame hive beekeepers.

It is expected that trainers will be able to translate the ideas into local languages. Thanks to the support of the Waterloo Foundation, another illustrated manual will be available in 2010. This will cover advanced management techniques and problem solving. A text-based trainers manual is also available, on request from Pam Gregory, that explains the 'Why' as well as the 'How'. Please email: pamgregory@phoncoop.coop

Pam Gregory has kept bees since 1974. She worked for the UK National Bee Unit from 1976-2003. She holds the UK National Diploma in Beekeeping and an MSc in Overseas Rural Development. She has spent the last 12 years working with beekeepers in sub Saharan Africa.

**Happy Beekeeping
Pam Gregory June 2009**