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“The role of dialogue and networking:
From a transitional to an industrialized country”

Strengthening Beekeeping Technology Promotion and Development in the Philippines Through Networking

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Abstract

The networking framework of development of beekeeping as a sustainable environment friendly, agroforestry-based industry was organized through the creation of the National Apiculture Research, Training and Development Institute (NARTDI). The institute is tasked to educate/train beekeepers, conduct research and extend technologies that will sustain the development and progress of emerging industry. The NARTDI subscribes to a participatory R&D paradigm where research and development problems are defined jointly by beekeepers, researchers, and other stakeholders of the industry.

The program has seven components: training and education, technology demonstration, establishment of satellite centers, apiculture models, beekeeping communities, setting up queen bee production, fabrication of beekeeping tools and supplies, commercialization and industry linkages and consumer education.

Networking is being accomplished in: establishment of satellite centers, establishment of demonstration apiaries, provincial agriculture models, and beekeeping communities; setting up queen bee breeding centers, monitoring and technical assistance; BEENET annual conference and techno-fora, National Beekeepers Congress, National Honey Festival, beekeeping trainings-seminars and Publications and Radio Broadcast.

Networking as a component of technology promotion and development strengthened the collaboration and linkages among the R&D implementers, facilitated the dissemination of improved beekeeping technologies (example, supply of queen bees) thereby increasing colony holding/beekeeper from 10–250 colonies, increased honey yield and income, increased livelihood in rural areas beside the claimed therapeutic benefits. It is also hoped that with networking and dialogue, beekeeping or apiculture be included as one of the regular commodity supported in the National Program of the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Keywords: Agroforestry-based industry, beekeeping, networking