

The comb should be changed once it is exhausted or the size of the egg cell will decrease. Clean bottom board of the hive should be maintain and clean any wax moth, cockroach, ants and lizard present. Remove any black comb or exhausted comb present in the hive. Prevent queen from laying eggs in the super-comb since it may lead to decrease honey production.

Periodic/ Seasonal management.

- I. Growth period. The strength of colonies should be maintained equal and provide drawn out comb to stimulate early or fresh brood rearing. Swarming impulse should be avoid by rearing queen before swarming and multiplication of colonies be done.
- II. Honey flow period. The colonies should be strong enough before the honey flow. If it is weak, it should be united. Sufficient drawn out comb should be provided. Queen excluder should be placed. Last extraction of honey should be left behind for the bees to overcome the dearth period.

- III. Dearth period. The super chamber should be removed. Sugar syrup by preparing in 1:1 ration of sugar and water boiled for 15 minutes should be provided. For strong colony 100ml sugar syrup should be place over the brood frame every week. Do not spill any sugar syrup on the hive and feed equal to all the hive at a time. Robbing should be checked. Pollens to be provided, or substitute pollens (40% sugar+ 40% roasted gram + 10 % pollen + 10 % yeast). Left out combs in the colonies should be removed and preserved. Colonies should be protected from pests and predators. Queen gate should be closed till dearth is over.

Fulfilling the above Care & Management practices will ensure a sustainable Beekeeping enterprise.

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CARE AND MANAGEMENT IN BEEKEEPING(*Apis cerana*)



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Introduction:

Useful small-scale efforts through beekeeping can help the farmers to strengthen livelihood creating a range of asset and ensure maintenance of habitat and biodiversity.

The success in beekeeping mainly depends on care and management practices. Poor care and management often result in total failure of the beekeeper. It is always advice that maximum care and management should be considered in beekeeping.

CARE

For progressive beekeeping, care should be taken from the very beginning. Some of the major factors to be considered are:

- Location should have enough bee flora with adequate nectar and pollen to produce highly economic honey
- There should be water source nearby or artificial source should be arrange
- Location should be easily accessible so that there is no problem in transportation

- Hive should be place about 2 meters apart with 3-4 meters between the rows, where there is constraint in space, placing hives in group of four facing different direction is a suitable arrangement
- Density of hives should be check in order to avoid overstocking of the bee colonies. The maximum concentration of bees is 0.8 km from hive.
- Artificial shade should be provide to the hive to protect them against cold wind, rain and sun heat
- Stock should be select from colonies having strong characteristics such as steadiness, cleanliness, gentleness and resistance to diseases
- Beekeeping should be start in the early part of flowering season when sufficient bee flora is available
- Bee hives should be made from good wood having qualities like non-scented, withstand termite attack and resistant to sun and rain

MANAGEMENT

Beekeeping management can be categorized into two major type viz. Routine management and Periodic/ Seasonal management

Routine management

- I. Colony record. A chart should be maintained to enter all the relevant information such as date of inspection, number of combs with brood and bees, cleanliness, number of supers given with drawn out comb, attempt of desertion, diseases and pest, pollen store, hone store in brood, date of amount of feeding given in gms, drone breeding, its state and disposal, number and stage of queen cells and number of honey extracted. The record should be taken every fortnight interval at least for a year.
- II. General inspection. Robbing on weak colonies should be checked in order to avoid them from deplete and abscond. Hornet attack should be check regularly. Building of irregular comb / burr comb should be check and scrape off or redress the burr comb.