

# Starting A Business



**HONEY BEE & HONEY  
PRODUCTION**

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**Beekeeping** is a business opportunity with social, economic, and ecological benefits that requires minimal time, labor, and resources. There are four species of honeybee that thrive best in the Philippines:

1. *Apis mellifera* also called European honeybees
2. *Apis cerana* also locally called *laywan*
3. *Apis dorsata* commonly called *pukyutan*
4. *Apis melliponinea* or stingless bees

The sunflower is the source of nectar, which is essential in beekeeping, particularly in producing quality and premium honey. Some of the forest tree species, which are good sources of pollen and nectars for the bees are narra, calliandra, eucalyptus, oak tree, molave, kamachili, kakawate, duhat, rain tree, african tulip, jacaranda, *ipil-ipil*, and other forest trees.

Cereal crops like corn and plants such as banana, mango, coconut, coffee, cacao, citrus, peanut, mongo, tomato, and eggplant are favorites of honeybees.

## I. ESTIMATED INVESTMENT COSTS

### A. For Honey Bee Production

Quantity	Description	Cost
2	Bee Colony @ P5,000 per colony	P10,000.00
1	Bee Smoker	1,500.00
1	Bee Veil	500.00
1	Hive Tool	300.00
1	Complete Standard Hive	1,600.00
1	Wax Foundation	70.00
1	Miticide	150.00
5 days	Basic Beekeeping Training (Live-in)	4,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>P18,620.00</b>

### B. For Honey Production

1	Honey Extractor	P30,000.00
24	Bottles @P230 per carton	230.00
100	Plastic Sealer	30.00
100	Label	150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>P30,410.00</b>

Cost based on February 2009 prices

## II. PROCEDURE

### A. Selecting an apiary\* and obtaining bee colonies

1. Look for an apiary, taking into consideration the following requirements:
  - must be near an access road to facilitate transportation of the products;
  - must be free from polluted water and high pesticidal sprays;
  - must have enough windbreaks (trees and shrubs) for protection during the typhoon season because bees tend to swarm in high wind;
  - must have an abundant number of pollen and nectar producing plants within 3 km.- 8 km. radius.
2. Buy bee colonies from existing beekeepers.
3. Ensure that the nucleus colony is composed of the laying queen, several adult workers, and worker brood in all stages of development.

4. Construct a good quality beehive - a box that houses the bees and consists of frames, top cover, hive body, division board, and bottom board.

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\* **Apiary**- a place where bees are raised for their honey

### **B. Managing the colonies**

1. Feed the bees when there is scarcity of nectar and pollen.
2. Prepare for honey flow. Add empty frames with wax foundation sheets to existing frames in the colony when there is no space left for the queen to lay eggs. The number of frames to be added is determined by the laying capacity of the queen. A colony ready for honey flow must have nine to ten frames with bees to maximize availability of nectar.
3. Place the empty frames side by side with the emerging brood. Do not treat the bee colonies with miticides one month prior to honey flow. The treatment of mites, foulbrood, and other pests and diseases must be done two months before honey flow. Undertake biological treatment with tobacco and *alagaw* in cases of mite infestation.

### **C. Harvesting and packaging honey**

1. Open the hive. Blow smoke towards the bees to avoid stinging and swarming.
2. Select ripened honey frames or sealed honey frames from the colony.
3. Take, shake, and brush the filled frame off the bees.
4. Uncap the sealed honey with a sharp knife, fork, or uncapping spoon.
5. Put the uncapped honey frames in the centrifugal honey extractor. Extract the honey by rotating the handle of the extractor. Using a pail, collect the honey coming out of the faucet at the side of the extractor.
6. Strain using a sterilized mesh or moist cloth.
7. Sterilize the bottles by boiling for 30 minutes.
8. Transfer the honey in the sterilized bottles, seal with a plastic sealer, and label for marketing.

### **Ecological Implications**

Beekeeping helps improve ecological balance by promoting plant regeneration and species diversity through pollination.

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*Tips:* 1) Do not start a beekeeping project with incomplete beekeeping equipment and with less than two colonies.  
2) Do not starve and overcrowd the colony as this will induce swarming.



# HONEY BEE & HONEY PRODUCTION

## III. ESTIMATED COSTING AND PRICING (For two colonies)

Particulars	Amount
<b>A. Production Cost</b>	
<b>1. Direct Cost</b>	<b>P6,135</b>
Wax Foundation (14 pcs.)	P980
Medicines	500
Sugar (32 kls.)	1,088
Bottles (60 pcs.)	600
Plastic Sealer and Label	500
Bees (2 colonies: P10,000/5yrs/12mos)	
Tools (smoker, hive tool, veil)	167
	2,300
<b>2. Indirect Cost</b>	<b>P6,120</b>
Labor ( part-time)	P4,500
Water & Electricity (P600/month)	600
Contingency 20%	1,020
<b>ESTIMATED PRODUCTION COST</b>	<b>P12,255</b>
<b>B. Sales Revenue</b>	
♦ Honey (40 kgs. for 2 colonies at P300/kilo colonies)**	P12,000
♦ Value of additional colony	10,000
<b>TOTAL SALES</b>	<b>P22,000</b>
<b>C. Estimated Income</b>	
Sales Revenue	P22,000
Less: Production Cost	12,255
<b>ESTIMATED NET INCOME in a month</b>	<b>P9,745</b>

\*\* Based on 20-kg. average monthly produce

Based on February 2009 selling price of honey

### Dos and Don'ts in Inspecting and Feeding Bees

1. Use a bee veil to avoid stings.
2. Do not stand in front of the hive.
3. Remove the cover gently and puff smoke towards the entrance of hive.
4. Remove frames and inspect both sides. Examine the rest of the frames and return to their original position.
5. Do not feed the colony when it is raining. Bees are aggressive during this time.
6. Do not use lotion or perfume during inspection. This might induce the bees to sting.
7. Do not spill sugar syrup in the apiary. This will induce robbing.

Source: DENR 1997, "Sustainable Livelihood Options for the Philippines, Upland Ecosystem: An Information Kit".

#### **IV. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

##### **1. Business Name Registration**

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) within NCR

- a. 2/F, Atrium of Makati Bldg., Makati Ave., corner  
Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City  
Tel. No.: 501.5135
- b. 2/F, Park N' Ride, Lawton,  
P. Burgos Ave., Dr. Basa St. Ermita, Manila  
Tel. No.: (632) 536.7153
- c. G/F, Highway 54 Plaza,  
EDSA, Mandaluyong City (across SM Megamall),  
Tel: No.: (632) 706.1767
- d. 5/F, Araneta Square Mall,  
Monumento Circle, Kalookan City  
Tel. No.: (632) 332.0854 / 332.0829

DTI Office in the province where the business is located  
Website: [www.bnrs.dti.gov.ph](http://www.bnrs.dti.gov.ph) for online registration  
Validity: 5 years

#### **V. BEES AND EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER**

1. Dr. Cleofas Cervancia  
Institute of Biological Sciences  
UPLB College, Laguna  
Tel No.: (049) 536.2893
2. Mr. Ramon "Tobee" Tamayo  
49 First Road, Quezon Hill, Baguio City  
Tel. No.: (074) 442.6732

#### **VI. FINANCING**

Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research  
and Development  
Department of Science and Technology (DOST)  
Bicutan, Taguig  
Tel. Nos.: 837.2926 / 837.2935  
[www.pcierd.dost.gov.ph](http://www.pcierd.dost.gov.ph)

## VII. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. Technology Resource Center (TRC)  
TRC Bldg., 103 J. Abad Santos cor. Lopez Jaena Sts.,  
Little Baguio, San Juan City  
Trunkline: 727.6205 loc. 202, 203 and 206  
Fax No.: 721.0063  
[www.trc.dost.gov.ph](http://www.trc.dost.gov.ph)
2. Office of the Provincial Agriculturist  
Ms. Imelda Sannadan  
Office of Provincial Government of La Union  
Tel. No.: (072) 888.3184
3. Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University  
Dr. Apolonio Sito  
Director, National Apiculture Research &  
Technology Institute  
Bacnotan, La Union  
Tel. No.: (072) 242.5641 loc. 267  
Fax No.: (072) 242.5642