

BARAKA BEEKEEPING NEWS



Promoting sustainable apiculture development

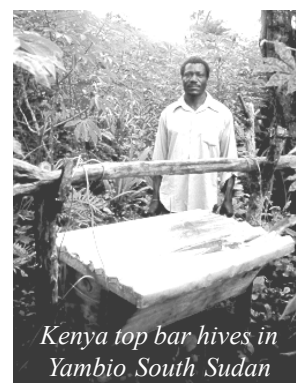
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Baraka Launches New Blend of Honey at FOODWORLD Expo !!

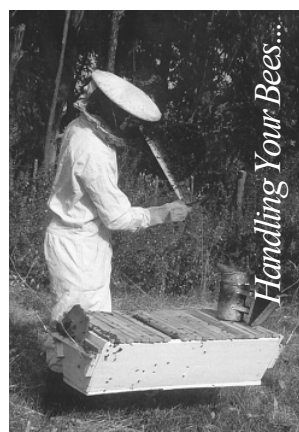
The BDU has recently linked up with the New Sudan Honey Producers Association (NSHPA) in Maridi, South Sudan for the supply of top quality wild forest honey. Baraka will launch this new equatorial forest blend at the Sarit Centre FOODWORLD Exhibition and Sale from the 29th of August to 2nd of September 2001.

NSHPA was formed in 1999 with assistance from the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and has 1,000 honey producers registered as members. CRS, funded by USAID, aims to facilitate economic development by promoting small business and supports community groups to implement sustainable economic rehabilitation projects. NSHPA was established due to the enormous beekeeping potential of the lush rainforest in Western Equatoria and was able to realise substantial profits last year through the export of 12 tons of organic honey. The Association is helping local people to generate income and has established several honey collection centers to facilitate bulking of honey for marketing. All members are trained on proper harvesting and handling of honey and honey buckets are provided by the association to hold the newly harvested white sealed honey combs. No further processing of the honey is carried out until it reaches the BDU at Molo Kenya where the honey is packed for sale. This honey is soon to be certified as totally organic, as no chemical fertilizers or sprays are used in the Maridi beekeeping area. Linking with NSHPA is part of Baraka's mission to assist small-scale, resource-poor farmers throughout East Africa. Therefore each variety of Baraka Highland honey gives recognition to the producer association which supplies our honey range.

For further information on purchasing Pure Baraka Highland Honey contact the BDU or Mr. Sam Wachira in Nairobi at 505677/712322/725922/3.



Kenya top bar hives in Yambio South Sudan



Practical Beekeeping Tips from Baraka.....

Many people are afraid of bees because they sting but if handled with respect and care bees will not cause you a problem. Try our following tips on how to handle your bees safely and easily:

Always wear a bee suit and take the time to put it on properly. Many people do not do this and get stung when opening hives. Avoid using strong smelling soaps or sprays all of which may aggravate the bees. Always use a smoker when handling bees as smoke

makes the bees suck honey from the combs and calms them down. Do not let the smoker go out during the operation and keep plenty of smoker fuel handy as you work. Keep two smokers alight, in case one goes out. Before opening hives warn any onlookers and remove any tethered animals from the vicinity. Start with the least aggressive colonies first allowing you to work in peace with the pleasant colonies. Work gently and quietly and do not knock or bang the hive. Avoid crushing bees and making sudden movements.

Work carefully and with confidence. Less experienced beekeepers should handle the bees at dusk, using a torch, as they are less aggressive in the cool of the evening. Remain calm even if the bees become aggressive. If bees appear to be getting out of control, close up the hive and try again another day. If bees get into your veil, remain calm and walk to a safe distance before trying to rectify the problem. Work the hives with two or more people at a time. One person lifting out the combs, the other using the smoker. This allows better control of the bees. Do not stand in front of the hive entrance when examining the hive. Bees flying in and out may become agitated to find their way blocked. Always cut down disturbance to the bees in every way you can. Advise any onlookers to move away quietly if stung. Tell them to cover their eyes but not to run or wave their arms, as this can annoy the bees. Remove bee stings from the skin as soon as possible by scraping using a knife, hive tool or your nail. Trying to pull out the sting tends to squeeze in more venom. Use smoke to cover the scent of a sting as this scent will attract other bees. Finally on leaving the hives, take a route via bushes and rub yourself against the leaves to rid yourself of bees which might be following you or on you. GOOD LUCK!

About Baraka Agricultural College....

Baraka Agricultural College was founded by the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru in 1974 and is managed on behalf of the diocese by Franciscan Brothers. The mission of the college is to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development through education, training and extension programmes aimed at the rural communities of East Africa. Our programmes include:

1. Certificate in agriculture and rural development.
2. A comprehensive short course programme in specialised areas.
3. BDU – the Beekeeping Development Unit – training and extension on beekeeping and marketing of bee products..
4. Day release courses for schools, colleges, farmers and development agents.
5. An extension outreach programme to farmers in Kamara and Lare divisions of Nakuru district.

The Beekeeping Course Programme.....

The Baraka beekeeping courses focus on appropriate and sustainable beekeeping production and marketing. One short course is scheduled for the remainder of 2001. This is the module two course from October 14th - 19th 2001. Anyone interested should have completed the module one course first. However additional module one courses can be arranged on request for groups of interested individuals (20 or more). Both men and women are invited to attend. Courses cost 4,500ksh inclusive of fees, food and accommodation and run from Sunday evening to the following Saturday morning. The BDU is also working with the Kenya Beekeepers Association to develop a Kenya certificate in beekeeping which we hope to be able to offer students by the end of 2002.

Please contact the Manager of the BDU for further details on beekeeping training and bee product purchases and sales.

The College's Skills Training Unit make high quality furniture at affordable prices for homes, offices, schools or religious institutions. Contact the Training Unit Manager.

We are on the Web! Check us out at <http://www.sustainableag.org>





Beekeeping in Manyatta Division near Embu....

By Eric S. Anderson US Peace Corps Volunteer Kenya Agroforestry 2000-2002.

Bees have been kept in Manyatta for hundreds of years. It is only in recent generations that the practice has declined due to the advent of the tea and coffee industries. In this region most of the flowers come from indigenous trees that were cleared for coffee and tea plantations. The issue faced is a combination of deforestation and insecticides used on tea and coffee both of which drive bees away. Currently fluctuation of prices with these two cash crops, has forced farmers to look for alternative sources of income. All of these factors have made the beekeeping development work of U. S. Peace Corps Volunteer Eric Anderson easily acceptable. Anderson has been working to close the information gap between the elders and the youth while simultaneously introducing new technology to increase the quality and quantity of honey produced in the division. Only the elders have the indigenous knowledge that is essential for this project to thrive, but the highly effective design of the Kenya Top Bar Hive has crafted a mold for success. Currently there are over 200 new

hives around the division with no end in sight. The honey should start flowing in the next few months. "I think it has taken off so well because people can see that they are making money and the work is next to nothing," says Anderson in reply to the initial success of this project. By planting a few indigenous trees on the boundaries of their farms and hanging the hives the bees are left to do the rest. The workload is far less than that of tea or coffee. "I still have a ways to go. I'm not done until there is a locally available market." Without a local buyer the transport costs will outweigh the profit and bee stings which individual farmers incur. Anderson is now focusing on establishing a refinery with a local partner such as Baraka, to market the honey around Kenya and internationally if the volume increases. Keep your eyes open for Prime Honey from the slopes of Mount Kenya. Any further questions can be sent to eric_anderson64@hotmail.com or snail mailed to Eric Anderson Box 72, Manyatta, via Embu Kenya mailing address good until August 2002.

Asali kwa Afya.....

At Baraka our aim is to promote the use of honey across Kenya & East Africa ...so try our delicious honey recipes today...



Honey Mustard Magic

Makes 16 servings (2 cups).
2 cups Pure Baraka Highland Honey
2 cups Dijon-style mustard

In small bowl, combine honey and mustard until well blended. Chill until ready to serve.
Serve with grilled sausages or chicken.

MoistureMask

THIS RECIPE IS FOR COSMETIC USE - NOT FOR EATING

Mix 2 tablespoons of Pure Baraka Highland Honey with 2 teaspoons of milk. Smooth over face and throat.
Leave on 10 minutes. Rinse off with warm water.

NEWS!!!



Beekeeping Study

Self Help Development International (SHDI) an Irish based development agency are supporting the Beekeeping Development Unit to carry out a study on beekeeping in Kenya and how it can be developed. The study will run up to Christmas 2001 and will analyse the beekeeping industry in Kenya at all levels, from producers right through to the end consumers. The results of the study will be used to formulate a beekeeping outreach programme from Baraka which is expected to run from 2002 to 2005. Those who would like further information on the study or to submit their views on the industry please write to the Manager of the BDU.

Beekeeping Demonstration

Honey Care Africa Ltd and Africa Now Demonstrate Commercial Beekeeping Equipment at Baraka.

On July 31st 2001 Honey Care Africa Ltd and Africa Now visited the Beekeeping Development Unit at Baraka College to demonstrate commercial beekeeping equipment. Over 30 beekeepers from areas surrounding Molo attended. Baraka fully supports the work of the two agencies in promoting commercial beekeeping in Kenya.

Beekeeping Equipment....

Due to ongoing rises in the cost of materials we have been forced to review our prices for all beekeeping equipment. The following prices are effective 1st August 2001. All our beekeeping equipment is inspected by staff of the Beekeeping Development Unit to ensure you get the best quality available in Kenya.

ITEM	KSH
Beesuit	2,000
Overall	1,000
Veil	500
Gloves	500
KTBHive	1,250
Langstroth Hive (floor/brood box/roof)	2,700
Langstroth hive (super)	1,000
Smoker	600
Catcher box	500
Observation hive	1,000
Hive tool	150
Bee Brush	100
Feeder Box	200
Queen Excluder	250
Solar Wax Melter	4,000

Apimondia 2001



Apimondia is the world association of beekeeping associations which will hold its first ever congress in Africa this year in Durban, South Africa from Sunday October 28th to Thursday November 1st 2001.

The congress is expected to attract about three thousand delegates from all over the world including many from Africa. The BDU will be represented at this important event by the Manager, Tom Carroll and the next edition of Baraka Beekeeping News will carry a report on

the congress from the East African perspective. Further information on the conference can be obtained from the internet at <http://www.apimondia2001.com>

BARAKA BEEKEEPING NEWS

Welcome Words from our New Staff Member!!!

The BDU welcomes Fredrick Otieno Odera to our staff. Fred has a certificate in Agriculture and Rural Development from Baraka Agricultural College and graduated in 2000. Fred joins two other fulltime staff members of the BDU - Florence Munguti and Tom Carroll. Fred has this final message for our readers:

Bee Self-Employed!
Leave dependency and create wealth!!

You can create wealth by keeping bees:
Harvest honey, refine, pack, sell and create wealth
Use combs to make wax, sell and create wealth
Use wax to make candles, sell and create wealth
Extract propolis from the hive, sell and create wealth
Make honey fruit juice sell and create wealth
Spend less money, less time and less energy to create wealth



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