



# GLIMPSE OF BEEKEEPING PROJECT

Implemented by  
Nagaland Beekeeping & Honey Mission

# UNDER NEC

North East Council



सत्यमेव जयते  
North Eastern Council  
Government of India



Nagaland Beekeeping  
& Honey Mission

# SUMMARY

**N**agaland is an abode of myriad plant species and has a unique distinction of being one of the botanical hot spot regions of India. About 70% of the total area is cradled with rich array of biodiversity from natural endowment of forests, orchards and wide ranging field crops. With the availability of copious perpetual flowering plant which flourish through the length and breadth of the state provides the variety of bee species to establish a unique ecological niche for themselves.

The honeybee species such as Rock bees (*Apis dorsata*) that thrives in the apparently critical natural resting place of dense forest and steep escarpments, to the Little bees (*Apis florea*) that nest in the wild with plumpy honey crest on the twigs of trees & shrubs, to the Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) that set up their common habitat in the midst of friendly Naga homes, to the Stingless bees (*Trigona* species) that dwells in the wild as well as reared in simple boxes, tree trunks and logs, crevices, bamboos, underground chambers etc, is a common sight in the many hamlets of the state. A visit to any Naga village is a leap to guide in encountering and sightings of an assorted collection of bee hives of different shape and sizes.

Beekeeping is an age old traditional practice that is intertwined in the socio-religious rituals of tribal Nagas. Bees have been revered and used as vital sign for many natural forces beyond their control by the animistic Nagas of yore. This is evident from the many folk lores, beliefs, bee songs and rituals that were associated with bee rearing and honey hunting by the many tribal

communities that inhabit the state. Thus there is no dearth of traditional knowledge on bees, beekeeping and honey hunting amongst the Nagas. Juxtaposed with modern management techniques will no doubt give the much needed boost to this ever promising sector

Nagaland beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) has undertaken in creating an overall road map for promotion and development of beekeeping and honey enterprise in the state. Through this intervention, the apiculture activities in the state have substantially undergone a shift from a largely rudimentary level to a well-organized and sustainable livelihood activity involving all stakeholders in Api - villages spread across the state. The activities of the mission have not gone without recognition by the rest of the country. Nagaland tops the list in the production of natural honey from amongst the North Eastern States of India. Today, the average honey production of 440 MT per annum is sourced from both domesticated as well as wild honey bees from different indigenous species. The achievements of the Mission have encouraged the rest of the North Eastern States to launch beekeeping missions in their respective States. As the forerunner in the region the mission has been providing trainings and consultancy services for key personnel and lead farmers of the NE States. At the National level the Mission is a life time registered member with the National Bee Board, and has registered hundreds of progressive beekeepers of the State with the Board.

# INTERVENTION AND INITIATIVES UNDER NEC

**N**BHM was supported by the North Eastern Council (NEC) through a grant since the year 2009 towards “Livelihood Enhancement in Nagaland through Beekeeping & Honey Development programme” with an objective to explore and develop the enormous potentials of Beekeeping in the region. This would further lead to sustainable livelihood opportunities to the people and also maintain harmony between buoyancy-dynamism in agriculture growth for basic human needs ensuring the continuation of environment through pollination of wild and cultivated areas. Keeping in view of the above objective, the NBHM has initiated and executed the programme and has achieved in widening the scope of the people in this region in exploring the vast potential beyond their normal subsistence agricultural activity. The traditional practices and knowledge of the Beekeeping was also upgraded on advanced scientific lines for optimum production, quality and conservation of this resource. The project has achieved in reviving the traditional practice of beekeeping on scientific lines in strengthening the livelihood of this region which has almost remained as a dormant activity.

Since the launching of the scheme in 2009-2017(8 years), the NBHM has taken up various Capacity building & Trainings, Apiary development and technology advancement and Post harvest management were being carried out across the State. All the activities have been implemented on a war footing, keeping in mind on the aim and objectives laid down under the scheme. With a total project cost of Rs. 9. 00 crores which was divided into 2 (two) phase, the mission has transformed the beekeeping scenario of the state into scientific lines, income & employment generation, crop productivity & production and above all the project has added 150 MT of honey to the state total production. Some of the achievements (cumulative) accomplished through this scheme are given as under;

SI No	Particulars of activities	Qty/Nos
1	Total district covered	11
2	Total village covered	89
3	No. of 3 days basic training on Scientific beekeeping conducted	22
4	No. of people trained	1320
5	No. of Bee colonies developed - Bee box & equipments issued	28000
6	No of stingless bee colonies developed	3700
7	No of bee house developed	220
8	No. of Village Beekeeping Committee (VBKC) constituted	320
9	No. of Common Facilities Centre (CFC) established	36

# GLANCE OF SUCCESS STORY OF A VILLAGE OUT OF MANY



**C**hozu basa village one of a young sprouting rural community located in the far east of the state under Phek district having a population of 120 people with 45 household have set an example by using the naturally gifted honeybee rearing as a bridge in advancing financially as well as socially towards a better outlook.

This village was supported under this scheme in the year 2013 through various activities such as capacity building & training; apiary development & technology advancement and post harvest management. Since then, the local populace was encouraged to increase the number of bee colonies that has boosted the production of honey and augmented their income. Subsequently they have formed village institution known as "Village beekeeping committee (VBKC)" to help leverage the collective

strength of the member producers and to fulfill the demand for honey in a unified and professional approach for better distribution channels and greater bargaining power resulting in higher returns.

The VBKC is a community friendly and they mainly act as an intermediate between the bee keepers and the advancing market. Each member contributes towards the well-being of the committee by donating 2 Kg of honey annually as a corpus fund to manage their institution. This fund is also kept as a measure for financial loan among themselves or to the other bee cultivators, which in turn helps them maintain cordial relationship and better coordination. The Village was also supported with a Common facility center to VBKC for home scale honey processing and outlets in the villages

to ensure quality standard and market value.

Today the village currently rears more than 700 bee colonies (both in Traditional & Scientific hives) and produces 2.5 MT of honey thus generating an average income of Rs.15,90,000/-(Rupees fifteen lakhs and ninety thousand) annually. With the success in beekeeping, now the people have a wish to accomplish their dreams by celebrating Annual Bee festival in the month of January every year.

### LESSON LEARNT/OBSERVATION FROM THE PROJECT:

- The project cost of central–State share (90:10) ratio hinders the project activities due to non release of state matching share on time that results to extension of the project and ultimately fails to accomplish the target set.
- Lack of constant monitoring visit in view of the distance and remoteness hampers the smooth functioning of the project.
- Narrow mindedness and lack of understanding to new approaches has prolonged in educating and motivating the local people in taking up the program.

- Subsidy culture and impatience is still inherent in all the project areas.
- Effect of climatic change visible on bees' behavior and honey production.

### GAPS AND CHALLENGES:

- Lack of understanding to new approaches: As most of the beekeepers are swear by traditional practices, an additional sensitization and motivational campaign needs to be carried out in all the project villages. This will strengthen the sustain ability of their resources and transform these assets into a successful livelihood activities.
- Lack of regular visits to monitor the project: To scale- up the frequency of monitoring visits for a successful implementation of the programme, more manpower with monitoring & resource mapping skills will be required.
- Crude method of harvesting: Supplementary training on quality harvesting and value addition of honey-wax for maintaining superior standards needs to be conducted in all the intervened villages. This training will improve the technique of quality harvesting, storage, processing and packaging for marketability for export purpose.



# SUCCESS STORIES OF INDIVIDUAL BEEKEEPERS

## 1. BEE ENTREPRENEUR OF KOHIMA DISTRICT



**K**evizelie Pienyu hailing from Nerhe Phezha village graduated from Kohima College in 2014. From a very young age he took keen interest in Beekeeping and by the time he reached 12th class, he was already rearing more than 15 bee colonies. After receiving 2 trainings on scientific beekeeping sponsored under NBHM (2009) and NEC scheme (2011) he developed better skills and greater insight into scientific beekeeping. Under NEC scheme he received an apiary unit, financial assistance for stingless bee rearing and a bee house. One CFC was constructed on the state highway so as to market their honey to the travelers. He took a break for 4 years to study LLB and graduated in 2018. Upon returning home he took up beekeeping with great enthusiasm and has now expanded his apiaries to nearly 60 bee colonies of *Apis cerana* and 35 colonies of stingless bees. He plans to expand his apiaries to more than 100 colonies as there is so much demand for pure honey by the local denizens.

He harvest more than 30 kg of stingless honey and 240 kg of honey



annually fetching him an annual income of nearly Rs.2,00,000/- . He is on his way to becoming a bee entrepreneur whereby with his skills he intends to assist fellow beekeepers to succeed in their bee endeavor. On December 5th 2019 Kevizelie Pienyu was awarded the best beekeeper from Kohima district during the Nagaland Honey Bee Day.



## 2. PROGRESSIVE BEEKEEPERS FROM KIKRUMA VILLAGE UNDER PHEK DISTRICT

**M**r. Avezo Puro, a promising beekeeper who is always fascinated by the amazing world of honeybees. At a young age of 14, he started to rear bees as a hobby. Later in the year 2009, he got the opportunity to attend the training organized by Nagaland beekeeping & Honey Mission under NEC scheme in the Village. Since then, with the support of this project there was no turning back for him and ultimately from a hobbyist with few bee colonies he has progressed into a full time beekeeper today with 122 bee colonies (both *Apis cerana* & stingless bees)

A father of four young children is able to sustain his family with the income he generates from the honey he produces. With the honey sales alone he earns about Rs.1,50,000/-

annually which takes care of his family needs and also support for education of his two young school going kids. With such income from the sales honey, he could get his children admitted in a private School with the hope that they get better education and become a responsible officer in the future.

Currently he practices both traditional and scientific Beekeeping where his apiaries are mostly located in the paddy field, orchard and homestead.

Today, Beekeeping has become his primary activity and a chief source of income and he has also a dream to make it bigger by adding more colonies in future. Mr. Avezo Puro also adds that he is grateful to the NBHM for the motivation and support that he has received.



### 3. AN OUTSTANDING BEEKEEPER OF MON DISTRICT

**M**r. K.P. Sangte of Monyakshu village under Mon district, a retired school teacher and a full time successful beekeeper and mentor today. In 2009 a band of 15 enthusiasts from his village led by him attended a cluster program on Scientific Beekeeping at neighbouring Changlangshu village funded by NEC. With his beekeeping experience of more than 25 years by then, it was just a matter of putting in place few other pieces of information to sojourn on the sweet journey ahead. With good initiative from his end and overall hard work by the committee members, they availed the first CFC under Mon district in 2012 and today it stands proudly as an office place, museum and also serves as a mini honey collection and packaging unit.

At present, he has 64 (*Apis cerana*) colonies which provides him with about 250-320 kgs of honey annually earning an amount of Rs.1,60,000/- by producing multi floral honey and cardamom honey.



He has been sharing his experiences orally and practically to beginners & fellow beekeepers in his village, Town, and nearby villages. For other far flung villages also he has always been around to assist over phone to the many queries from interested individuals from neighboring villages like Yakshu, Yei and Ukha under Mopong circle. Much of cardamom honey from his apiary along with harvest of the committee members are bought by legislators and officials to be used as presents within and outside the state. He was also awarded as the best beekeeper of Mon district during 2nd Nagaland Honeybee day-2019 at Kohima.





#### 4. EMERGING BEEKEEPER OF YAKOR VILLAGE, TUENSANG DISTRICT



manage to harvest 400 kg of honey earning an income of Rs. 1, 70,000/- from the sales of honey.

It is worth mentioning that, within a decade into beekeeping, out of the income he had earned from sales of honey, he could purchase 4 cows, constructed 2 fishery ponds, constructed a timber house of his own, married off his daughter without any financial constraint and even purchased a second hand vehicle which he is utilizing to transport bee boxes in his farms. Today he is the role model beekeeper of the region and through his personal experience he advocates and encourages his fellow friends and villagers to start beekeeping in sustaining themselves which is zero investment with lucrative income.



**M**r. Hekiamong Yimchunger of Yakor village whose livelihood is dependent on subsistence Jhum agriculture and forest products started his beekeeping career with scientific bee box in the year 2010 by attending Cluster beekeeping training programme under NEC project at Chendang village.

With time goes by, his enthusiast on beekeeping has never stopped and now he has overtaken all the beekeepers in his village by becoming one of the most progressive beekeeper having more than 98 bee colonies (Both *Apis cerana* & Stingless bees). Last year he could

## 5. BEEKEEPER, INNOVATOR & MASTER TRAINER OF MOKOKCHUNG DISTRICT

**T** Chuba a 70 years old beekeeper from Yisemyong village under Mokokchung District has been assisted through NEC project in the year 2009, and since then there has been no looking back, he has kept his passion for beekeeping alive till date with utmost dedication and hard working nature. He rears both *Apis cerana* and stingless bees at his homestead apiary and in his orchards away in the fields. Presently he is taking care of 137 colonies all by himself.



If someone visits his house, it would be delighted to see rows of well-maintained shaded bee colonies, with concrete bee stands and ant wells. One would even come across a Bee House which houses about 16 bee colonies buzzing in harmony.

Total honey production from his bee colonies per annum is between 800-900 kgs, (honey harvest varies year to year, depending on the season) which easily fetches him a good income of Rs 4,00,000/- to Rs 4,50,000/- annually. Every year he harvests his honey in two seasons, first season starting from March to May and the second honey season from October till December.

His passion for honeybees encouraged him to formulate various medicinal drinks made out of honey and other indigenous herbs and curing plants. This healing drinks labelled as 'Honey Cure' which one can buy from his

apiary is used for relieving various ailments like gastric, urinary problems, High blood pressure, indigestion, constipation and many other ailments. He is also proficient in constructing artificial queen cells from beeswax and imparts this knowledge to other beekeepers.

Honey from his apiaries is sold under the brand name 'Yisemyong Honey' and 'Kujintsu Honey'(stingless honey in Ao Naga Dialect) which finds market in the nearby Town of Mokokchung as well as from his regular buyers who swears by the good quality pure honey obtained from his bee colonies. The money earned from sale of honey and other honey cure products serves as a good source of income for his family.

Based on the recommendations of NBHM, He has been awarded with a citation and memento during the National

Conference on held at Guwahati on 22nd May 2013, awarded jointly by FICCI and NERAMAC for his remarkable contribution to the beekeeping sector in the State of Nagaland. He is also the recipient of the best Block Level Farmer's Award for his excellent contribution in the field of Agriculture & Allied production during the year 2013-14, awarded by ATMA, Mokokchung.

A Certificate of Appreciation on Innovation for his 'honey cure from honey and yeast, Artificial Queen cell from wax, was awarded by Nagaland University, during the Innovation Exhibition held on 17th November 2015, at Nagaland University Lumani.



## 6.SUCCESS STORY OF A BEEKEEPER UNDER KIPHIRE DISTRICT.

**M**r. Kiusangthong of New Vongti, Pungro sub division under Kiphire district is a progressive beekeeper having 50 colonies both in scientific and traditional hives. He has availed the para apiarist training organized by NBHM under NEC project for progressive beekeepers and is actively involved in sensitizing and motivating fellow farmers in this region. Today, through beekeeping he is earning a good income to sustain his family and give quality education to his children.

Moreover, he extends his full cooperation to NBHM by assisting the Mission in Kiphire district as a resource person for practical demonstration during various Training programs on Modern Scientific Beekeeping. He is a role model and serves an important role as farmer to farmer knowledge disseminator on beekeeping knowledge in the District.



## 7. A STRIDE TO A NEW FRONTIER OF LIVELIHOOD IN DIMAPUR DISTRICT



**P**herima, a village that belongs to the Sumi tribe, which is located 38 Km toward the east from Dimapur Hq, has beekeeping as an activity that has been practiced for generations. They have learnt to establish a symbiotic relationship with nature and its resources and possess a strong sense of survival. Earlier, people of this village took up beekeeping as a hobby, but now it has become a key income-generating activity for many households.

One Mr. Shehuto Zhimomi of the village, who was scared of bees all of his lifetime, happened to change overnight after attending the scientific Beekeeping training in the year 2010 by the NEC project and started beekeeping out of passion, realizing its economic potential.

He was supported with the activities under this scheme and expanded his bee colonies and started to produce more honey than before. Today, he has 47 hives (Apis cerana & Stingless) producing 80 Kg of honey, generating an additional source of income through the sales of honey and nucleus colonies, earning Rs.60,000/- annually.

With the demand for good quality honey, which is so high in Dimapur district, and the honey produced in the village is not even able to meet their own local market demands. So he has plans to increase his number of bee colonies by 60-80 hives, enabling him to access a wider platform on which to market and sell his honey, and profitably carry on this livelihood activity that was passed down through generations. As a chairman of the village Beekeeping Committee, he is also trying to strengthen the beekeeping activities in the village into a collective endeavour by establishing a beekeepers' society through which it aims to scale up honey production, improve packaging and marketing of honey, and even start producing honey-based value-added products.



## 8.PADDLE TOWARDS SWEET SUCCESS AT LONGSA VILLAGE, WOKHA DISTRICT

**W**opon Kikon, 50 years old from Lotha community is an upcoming beekeeper from Longsa village. He earns his livelihood through Fishery, raising Nursery and Beekeeping. During the year 2009, he has been motivated on prospect and importance of



beekeeping after attending the basic training programme imparted by NBHM under NEC. Initially, He started with a homestead apiary by rearing 5 (five) bee colonies in traditional hive to supplement his income. Through the art of scientific management practice he multiplied the bee colonies and gradually expanded his apiary annually.

Inspite of rampant degradation of forest cover and loss of vegetation due to expansion of Agriculture activities in Longsa area, he could manage to rear 62 bee colonies of different species (*Apis cerana* & stingless). At present with the support of this scheme, he could manage to harvest 180 Kg of honey from his apiary earning an additional income of Rs.1,25,000/- from beekeeping.

Today with the wealth of scientific knowledge and techniques that he has acquired on beekeeping made him realized the scope to boost and improve this ever promising sector. His future trust area is to adopt apiculture along

with fishery as his profession on a massive scale and run the business only not for honey production but also to breed superior stock bee colonies readily make available for beekeepers of Wokha district.



## 9. SUCCESS STORY OF BEEKEEPER FROM PHUYE NEW VILLAGE UNDER ZUNHEBOTO



**M**r Hetoyi Yeptho 60 years of Age a man with principle of Dignity of labour ,hail from Phuye New village under Suruhuto, Zunheboto District took up beekeeping as a hobby way back in 1971 initially with just 5 colonies of Apis cerana (common honey bee) in traditional log hive in his kitchen garden, the harvest was shared amongst relatives as marketing & elixir value of honey was not known, In the year 1980's he gradually add bee colonies every year in traditional way.

With introduction of beekeeping and skill up gradation training in his village in the year 2010 assisted with establishment of scientific apiary under NEC scheme, today he is the proud owner of 105 colonized hives, having wide range of expertise in beekeeping over the scientific method. Annually he produces around 300 Kg of honey earning an amount not less than Rs. 1.20 Lakhs. His passion for bees speaks volume marketing of quality honey is done in his Apiary itself most of the time honey is booked in advance with a huge

demand from well know people in towns he is unable to meet demand. With the earning he generate from the sale of honey, he meet his family needs, children education and above all he could construct a home in his village. At present, Bee lovers of the village often come to him to get trained on beekeeping, whereby he also advocate the populace on benefits of beekeeping whenever he gets opportunity.



## 10. UNDERGROUND TURNED NATURE AND BEE'S LOVER.



**M**r. Juhie (75 years) hails from Punglwa village under Peren district, Nagaland is a sincere, hardworking and honest man who in many ways has shown an exemplary life to the people living around him. He is one of the renowned beekeepers from Peren District who rears *Trigona irridipennis* species or commonly known as Stingless bee. He also keeps some colonies of *Apis cerana* and has know-how about the technique of traditional Rock bee honey harvesting. He already has some knowledge and good number of stingless colonies at the time when he attended training on Basic & Capacity building training on scientific beekeeping at Punglwa village in 2009 which was organised by the Nagaland Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) under NEC programme.

Interestingly, he got more inspiration and motivation from the training. Presently, he has around 60 plus colonies of Stingless bee which are being hanged around his granary & house in log hive (tree trunk) and wooden box and some colonies of *Apis cerana* being reared traditionally and scientifically. Over the years and through his long years of experience he has

become an expert in the multiplication of bee colony and quality control of hive and hygienic honey harvesting manually and overall management for promotion and development of beekeeping. Through his beekeeping venture, he earns substantial amount annually from the sale of honey which is sold to his regular buyers.

According to him, honey bees are nature's best gift for environment and mankind and it is useful for consumption



as well as for application for various ailments and sicknesses like sore throat, dysentery, weak & sickly people, BP patient, good for blister/ mouth ulcer for children and adult, apply in wounds & injuries, all types of skin cure like itching, sore, wound, good for operation patients, and delivery mothers, eyesore, etc. He also knows the benefits of keeping bees at his surrounding for cross pollination and for increased crop productivity in fruits bearing crops.

He loves keeping bee colonies and today his surroundings have become a

safe haven for stingless bee and common Indian honeybee species. So far he had lots of visitors who came to his village especially Agricultural and Bee Scientist & Research scholars from India n Abroad including scientists from Alaska USA, China, Japan, Australia and from various institutes from India & NEI including Nagaland. He encourages everyone especially the unemployed youth of the State to take up beekeeping since it's environmental and farmers friendly which also provides an additional income and sustainable livelihood.





# PICTURE AT GLANCE OF THE ACTIVITIES



*Capacity Building & Trainings*



*Establishment of scientific Apiary*



*Common Facility Centre for Home scale honey Processing*



*Bee house*



*Technology advancement of stingless bee rearing*



*Officials of 3rd party monitoring of NEC projects*



*Bee house*



*Apiary Development Longleng*



*Development of Stingless colony*



*Development of apiary at orchard farm*



*Apiary at Phek District*



*Apiary at Shaksi Longleng*



*NEC Training at Thiphuzu Village Phek*



*Inauguration of CFC at Chozu Basa  
by Team Leader NBHM*



*Monitoring of NEC Project by  
Planning Department at Longleng District*



*Honey Collection at Khutsami Village Phek*



*Honey Collection at Chozu Basa Village*



*Stingless Bee rearing  
at Chozu Basa Village Phek*



*Stingless Bee Rearing at Peren*



*Exhibition at Republic Day Celebration in Phek*



*Honey Harvesting at Khusu Village Phek*



*Orchard Apiary at Rousoma Village Kohima*



*CFC at Yisemyong Mokokchung*



*Stingless Apiary at Chungtia Village Mokokchung*



*Apiary at Phuye New village Zunheboto*



*CFC at Monyakshu Village Mon*



*Bee House at Mon*



*NEC Monitoring Team with Beekeepers at Yakor Village Tuensang*



*Farm Apiaries under NEC Tuensang District*



*An Apiary with Beehouse Kiphire district*



*Bee House Kiphire*



*Backyard apiary of Mr. Iditung Peren*



*House being garlanded with stingless bee colonies- Peren*

