

Improving Farmers Attitude Towards Natural Resources Management in a Democratic and Deregulated Economy: Honey Production Experience in Oyo State of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The study identified the production and management practices involved in honey production; investigated farmers' level of knowledge of honey production; and determined the attitude of farmers towards honey production. Eighty members of the Beekeepers' Association of Nigeria (BAN), Oyo State Chapter, were interviewed through the use of questionnaire in December 2003. The study identified site selection, housing of bees, routine inspection and prevention of swarming, harvesting, processing, packaging, marketing and record keeping as management practices among others. The result showed that the farmers possessed high level of knowledge of honey production (mean knowledge score = 32.5). The result of the hypothesis tested showed significant relationship between attitude of farmers and some selected attributes of knowledge such as source of knowledge ($T=3.100$); knowledge of ripe honey ($T= -2.058$); period of harvesting ($T=3.497$) and method of honey extraction from comb ($T=3.008$). Farmers in the study area had positive attitude towards honey production and management practice hence, measures should be taken to sustain the favourable attitude of farmers towards honey production.