

Being the best friend of the human being, the contribution of small bees in the development of nature is very significant. The bees produce sweet and nutritious food- Honey. Pollination by bees in Litchi, fruits of Lemon species, Guava, Plum, Peach, Apples etc. and other Pulses and Oilseed crops is very important. Experiments have proved that the weight and nutritive value of grains of the crop produced by cross pollination is very good. It is evident from the above fact that bees produce not only honey but also helps in increase in crop yield thereby making the farmers happier and availability of economic nutritious grains to the state and country.

Each bee colony contains 3 types of bees- Queen, Drone and worker.

Usage of Honey

Honey is not only a nutritious food but it is a medicine also.

### **What is Honey?**

Following elements are found in honey:

#### **Water**

Honey contains 17-18% fructose (fruit sugar), 42.20% glucose (grape sugar), 34.71% aluminide, 1.18% other minerals. In addition to this, 1.16% Vitamin C, Vitamin B, Folic Acid, Citric Acid etc. important products are also found in it.

Honey is used as food, medicines and cosmetics.

### **Establishment of Beehives**

In plains, best time to start bee keeping is October and February. Beehives established in this time produce 20-25 kg honey in first year and 35-40 kg in second year. First year of establishment is little costlier. Then after, recurring expenditure is of 8-10 sugar and 0.500 kg of hive wax per year. The expenditure on establishment of one bee colony comes around Rs. 2450. Department of Horticulture provides free of cost advice. Inspection of bees of beekeeper is carried out by technical staff on every 10th days which is essential.

### **Harvesting of Honey**

Honey is extracted using modern methods. There is separate chamber for eggs. The honey is filled in honey chamber. This honey frame is sealed when it is filled with honey. Sealed part is extracted with the help of extractor and put in a centrifugal machine where honey is separated due to centrifugal force and the sealed part is again put back for honey collection. Thus, bee colony is not harmed and in the season bee production is again started.

### **Details of Income-Expenditure Accounts of Bee Keeping**

Importance of Bee Keeping: Bee keeping not only increases crop yield of fruits, vegetables, pulses and oilseed but it also provides honey and wax.

In first year of establishment of beehives, 2 additional beehives and 20-25 kg honey can be obtained which generates an income of Rs.2000-2500 per year. In second year, by investing Rs.300-350, Rs.3500-4000 can be earned.