

The importance of technical knowledge transfer to new beekeepers situation in Spain in comparison with other countries.

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Introduction and justification

Spain is well positioned globally as regards to beekeeping, the largest producer of honey in Europe. As beekeepers, their training is mostly derived from the transfer of knowledge from generation to generation. There is hardly any education provided within the formal education system.

Currently the number of courses taught in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations of producers has increased and it is these organizations which are being blamed for transferring knowledge of this noble activity from non-formal education.

Also due to the demand for training, Bee Garden (www.beegardenmalaga.com) expanded our apitourism services to offer beekeeping training among other services.



Image used for courses about the problem of agricultural pesticide abuse



Images during the courses, Bee garden seeks to innovate, shows they are their plastic frame, hardly used in Spain, seeking new partners for your project and makes a bee outreach through social networks (facebook, twitter...) and their Youtube channel, [www.youtube.com / user / CanalBeeGarden](http://www.youtube.com/user/CanalBeeGarden)



Material and methods

For the preparation of this paper was used the following information:

- interview beekeepers
- analysis of bibliographical
- authors' personal experience gained over many years.

Results and Discussion

In Spain

The results show that few training centers and universities offer specialty beekeeping. National Apicultural Congresses have resumed after many years. Conferences have been held in the following years: 1983, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990 and 2010. Next Congress will be held in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) in 2014; hopefully after this Congress continue every two years to highlight the progress of beekeeping, so little investigated in Spain compared to other countries and increase social awareness of the importance of bees.

Such social awareness about the importance of bees is much lower than in other countries. Also highlighting the celebration of a single International Beekeeping Congress in Spain, that it held in Madrid in 1961.



VII National Apicultural Congress will be held in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) in October 2014 and is organized by the Galician Association of Beekeepers (www.apiculturagallega.es) and the Association for the promotion of apicultural congresses (www.afca.org.es), with the support of several organizations, including the Spanish Association of Beekeepers (www.aeapicultores.es).

In the United Kingdom:

There are very many beekeeping courses and many levels of training. Most is organised under the auspices of the British Beekeeping Association (www.bbka.org.uk).

There are also other types of training, both formal and informal, in schools, colleges and through mentoring programmes.

In London Urban & Community Beekeeping runs bee 'clubs' at sites where they keep hives. These are at commercial firms (lawyers, broadcasters, fashion houses) and at educational institutions (London College of Fashion, London School of Economics) where staff meet once a week, often in their lunch hour, to tend the hives, look after the bees and develop their beekeeping skills.



Images on the teaching of urban beekeeping in the UK

There has been growing interest in beekeeping in London in the last two years. This is partly as a result of an initiative by the Mayor of London. This is his statement: 'In the winter of 2009/10, Britain lost a third of its bee colonies. Bees are a vital part of Britain's ecology, and are directly responsible for pollinating at least 30% of the food crops we eat. They are also an important indicator of our ecosystem's overall health.'

There are many reasons for the decline of bees. What is clear however is that large, urban centres are becoming havens for bee populations. They provide a milder climate and a wider range of food than the countryside. London has a key part to play in the future survival of Britain's bee populations and with more Londoners than ever choosing to grow their own food, bees are more important than ever.'

Other initiatives in other countries:

- Plan for sustainable development of beekeeping in France: <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/Plan-de-developpement-durable-de-l-apiculture>
- International meeting of young beekeepers, past editions: Czech Republic (2010), Austria (2011), Norway (2012), Germany (2013)
- Project HOBOS in Germany: www.hobos.de

Conclusions

It is necessary producers participate in congresses or seminars organized, and requiring government support in training to revalue the activity and achieve generational change. In contrast to Spain, in the United Kingdom is important the existence of the National Diploma in Beekeeping (NDB). The NDB exists to meet a need for a beekeeping qualification above the level of the Certificates awarded by the United Kingdom National Beekeeping Associations.

In Spain, it is also importance to legalize urban beekeeping as educational model, as there are in other countries. Beekeeping in the city makes many people aware of the importance of the honeybee. See what is happening in London: www.urbanbeekeeping.co.uk