



**Acceptance of Private Sector Capacity Building and  
Extension Services in Modern Beekeeping, Honey  
Processing and Marketing; a Case Study in  
Butajira, South-Western Ethiopia.**

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## **i. Abstract**

Ethiopia as Africa's leading producer of honeybee-products is ranking fourth in beeswax and tenth in honey exporting globally. But due to a lack of beekeeping equipment, shortage of trained manpower and inadequate research works, beekeeping recently is still carried out mainly by using traditional techniques, leading to interruption and sometimes destruction of bee-colonies and natural resources. Qualities achieved are low and not compatible on the global market. A private-private partnership has been developed between local beekeepers and HARMONY Agricultural Enterprise PLC, one of which's mayor intentions is to improve both, yields and quality in beekeeping as well as saving natural resources by introducing a newly developed hive made of PU-foam. Especially addressed are women and (in the long run through parental education) children, since the hives are lighter than those made of wood. Aim of this study was to evaluate and analyse the acceptance and efficiency of services and training provided to local beekeepers. One main reason for failure of previously introduced extension services was learned to be in the fact, that the importance of after sales services for the participants and market development for honeybee-products were neglected and not included in the programmes. Extracting equipment in particular was not provided by the public partner and the new technology's potential not used to the full extent. Still though, income in particular increased due to beekeeping activities; further nutritional and health statuses of the households have improved. The recent programme is well accepted among farmers in the Gurage Zone and the private partner offers great opportunity to provide timely extraction and marketing channels for honey. Thus, the programme has high potential for success and to spread even further beyond the region.

**Key Words:** extension service, modern beekeeping, acceptance