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Towards Realization of Kenya's Full Beekeeping Potential: A Case Study of Baringo District

In Baringo District, a pre-eminent source of honey in Kenya, traditional log hives and bee colony management skills are still the rule despite efforts made by the government to modernize beekeeping since 1950. Unprocessed or semi-refined hive products only partially satisfy the ready local demand. Beekeepers realize that land pressures are threatening bee productivity and existence but are poorly equipped for better management of the forage resources or more efficient hive management with modernization. A detailed analysis leads to concrete recommendations to reform the sector by strengthening the researcher-extension linkage, better organization of producers, improvements in marketing as well as training at local level in modern hive production systems. Also, active participation of women in the sector can bring about more equitable distribution of income and other benefits from beekeeping.