



STATE OF NIGERIA MODERN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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A SHORT REPORT: EFFECTS OF FEEDBEE POLLEN SUBSTITUTE DIET ON HONEYBEES IN NIGERIA

This report of analysis of Feedbee pollen substitute diet on local honeybees of Nigeria has been prepared as a component of the overall study by Dr Akinwande Kayode, an Apiculture scientist and an Entomologist at the Department of Zoology, University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Feedbee diet is made solely from natural plant materials and it is used to feed honeybees as a pollen substitute to increase brood production, improved colonies' health and increase worker bees population and honey yield as a consequence. The result of efficacies of the product on local Nigerian honeybees were obtained from field experiments and analyses in Osun State Apiaries and from reports submitted by selected modern beekeepers spread in three states in Nigeria, who were given the product to feed their colonies.

The period Feedbee were administered was during the pollen dearth which preceded honey cropping season (December, 2013 to March, 2014). This is the time when most swarming and absconding of colonies occurs. During the trial, the colonies were fed once a week with the Feedbee and the data were collected during and after the feeding period.



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Results Summary

The bees readily consumed the product without any negative observations. 100 percent of the colonies that were fed with the products remain stable and sustained all through the dearth season to the bloom period. Feedbee increased the colony brood production and consequently increased the foraging worker bee population yet there was neither swarming nor absconding. Similar reports were received from 77 percent of beekeepers used Feedbee in brood rearing and population increase without swarming and absconding.

The study will be continued to confirm the effect of Feedbee on honey production in terms of quantity and quality after the upcoming honey cropping season. However, the concomitant brood rearing and population increase will likely increase the honey yield in this season.

Based on the successful overall trial and efficacy of the Feedbee product, most of the beekeepers are demanding for its supply and recommending it for use to other beekeepers.

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