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Sustainable Beekeeping, *from the south of the world*

ABSTRACT BOOK

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Development of sensory panels for the definition and recognition of honeys from the Mediterranean basin

Amelia V. González-Porto[1], Gian Luigi Marcazzan[2], Raquel Martín Hernández[1]
[1]Centro de Investigación Apícola y Agroambiental (CIAPA) de Marchamalo - Instituto Regional de Investigación y Desarrollo Agroalimentario y Forestal (IRAF)
[2]Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria: Bologna, Italia, IT

The Mediterranean basin is characterized by various botanical species of plants from which the bees collect the nectar, which will give rise to a great variety of honey, both monofloral and polyfloral. A further source of variation in honey characteristics could be linked to the differences in floral preferences among the different subspecies of A. mellifera, but this aspect is not yet known.
All these factors influence the pollen spectrum and the physicochemical and sensory characteristics of honey. Sensory characteristics are fundamental in the honey market, as they are directly perceived by consumers and can influence appreciation and choice. However, consumers' preferences may vary according to their knowledge of the product and the different organoleptic and quality characteristics. It is therefore essential to study the organoleptic and quality characteristics of honey and to educate consumers. For this purpose, expert technicians must be trained to form and maintain a sensory panel whose task will be to describe, evaluate and promote the honey produced by the local bee subspecies. Both CIAPA and CREA have proven experience in performing sensory analysis as each institution has already developed sensorial panels. The alignment of the existing panels and the development of the new panels in the other partner countries will be leaded by CREA as already coordinator of the Sensory Analysis working group within the International Honey Commission (IHC). Under this supervision, sensory panels will be developed in all the participating countries (Italy, Spain, Portugal, Malta, Jordan, Algeria, Turkey) according to the MEDIBEES proposal (Monitoring the Mediterranean Honey Bee Subspecies and their Resilience to Climate Change for the Improvement of Sustainable Agro-Ecosystems), supported by PRIMA European funding.

In addition to the training of a panel of tasters at national level within each country, the trainers of each country carry out training activities on the different types of honey production in their environment, aimed at different audiences such as beekeepers, university students, consumers, in the villages as a point of support in rural development. More than a dozen of these activities have been carried out in the different partner countries with great success.

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Situation of bee breeding in the Polloc village center, La Encañada, Cajamarca, Perú

Maivelin Claude Chunqui Cerquin, Alonso Vela Ahumada, Jhon Anthony Vergara Copacondori
Department of Agronomy, National University of Cajamarca, Cajamarca, Perú

"In the Population Center of Polloc, La Encañada district, province and department of Cajamarca, Peru, primary information was collected through surveys in order to determine the situation of beekeeping Apis mellifera". Surveys were applied to 50 beekeepers distributed in five villages. Thirty percent of the respondents were initiated in beekeeping through the implementation of a financed project and 70 % through self-learning; 80 % of the beekeepers have not been trained or technically advised, as opposed to 20 %. Seventy percent of the hives were installed from collected swarms and 30% correspond to core of bees acquired in the city of Cajamarca, predominantly of the Creole breed, but there are also crosses between Carniolan and Italian. A large number of hives (80%) are installed in agricultural ecosystems such as tarwi, corn and potatoes, while 20% have been installed in natural forests. All of them report that health problems include ants and varroa. Finally, honey production is 30.8 kg/hive/year (considering only 2 harvests per year) and is destined for the local market.