

Honey Making Money!

ZIM-HWZ-HMM-P03



Chimanimani, Zimbabwe



Economic Empowerment

Budget \$32,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

APR 20

JUN 23



Overview

Our partners seek to support impoverished and marginalized rural communities in Zimbabwe. The project started in Chimanimani in eastern Zimbabwe where a bee-keeping pilot project was established in a rural village. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, and as the team have “pivoted” as they have progressed over the past two years, the project has expanded into other villages with support training. Model apiaries have been established and are used for training and research. The aim of the project is to alleviate poverty through economically empowering beneficiaries to engage in beekeeping as a sustainable, income-generating activity that will also improve the environment.

Objectives

Impact



Expand out-grower scheme to 3 new villages

As planned, out-grower schemes were set up in three new villages: Ndakopa (24 out-growers), Chikukwa (22 out-growers) and Tandi (Rusape) where a group of bee-keepers approached the team for support and further development.



Honey processing & packaging workshop

Our partner acquired two honey pressing machines which have been in operation at the workshop. These two cold pressers produce a high quality, pure honey for retail market and were made locally, supporting local industries.



Two+ model apiaries set up

A bee-house was added to the apiary in Rusitu village and was equipped with 10 Langstroth hives managed by the out-grower team. Low hive occupation rates following cyclone Idai have prompted more proactive swarm capture methods.



Honey marketing & distribution

Over the 3-year project, 14.7 tonnes of honey have been harvested and processed. New markets acquired for honey distribution are National University of Science & Technology, Fortwell Wholesellers and Fazak supermarket - all big clients.



Life change

- Income-generating skills will provide a sustainable income to help support participants and their families and will provide avenues into better education, health and community living
- People will feel empowered through learning practical skills and business training
- Villagers will understand and see the benefits of looking after the environment
- Villagers will learn to work together through the formation of cooperatives



Charles Charinda's Story

Charles lives with a disability and has always been a bee-keeper, harvesting small amounts from his few traditional hives to sell in his village. It wasn't until he joined the out-grower scheme, receiving training, equipment and reliable market access, that he was able to scale up his farming and produce more profitable honey. As well as seeing his own property develop, he is now part of a group that manages a communal apiary capable of producing 300kg per harvest. "I am encouraged by the growing number of beekeepers around. It not only benefits us financially but our fields and crops are better too from increased pollination".



Honeycomb from one of two batches of very good quality honey received from the model apiary in Rusitu

Faith Chikati's story

Faith is a single woman in her 50s who has never married and spent much of her recent life caring for her aging parents. Her father used to keep two bee-hives, enough for home use and gifts for friends and neighbours, but the family had no idea of the full income-earning potential from bee-keeping. Faith was introduced to the out-grower group and persevered through the training when others gave up because of the time taken to start producing honey. It was worth the wait though and Faith says "We have been able to sell our honey a few times now and the impact of having such a source of income is amazing for those of us who remained committed to the project".

