

Dr. B. L. Sarswat,

Director (C/C)

भारत सरकार
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय
कृषि, सहकारिता एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001



Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation
and Farmers Welfare
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Date: 05.09.2019

Executive Director,
National Bee Board, DAC &FW

Subject: Matters relating to processing of Honey for moisture reduction – reg.

Dear Dr. Peter,

You might be aware that National Bee Board (NBB), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India is promoting scientific beekeeping in the country. The main objective of the NBB is overall development of scientific beekeeping in the country by popularizing state of the art technologies in beekeeping for quality production of honey & other beehive products and to increase the productivity of crops through pollination support for enhancing the income of the beekeepers/farmers.

2. It has been brought to our notice by the beekeeping industry/ exporters that there is some proposal to bring an amendment in honey standards “**declaring any honey having more than 20 per cent moisture at raw stage, that needs processing for moisture reduction, may not be considered as pure natural honey**”. This does not seem to be appropriate, particularly, in case of **Tropical Countries**, like **India**, with high relative humidity during honey flow season. Sometimes, even sealed honey from some of the regions may have high moisture (>20% may be upto 24%) which needs processing of honey for ‘**moisture reduction**’ to bring it down below to 20 per cent. Some of other Tropical Countries, like **Vietnam**, etc., have already taken up this matter with you & other authorities.

3. Keeping in view the above, and as APIMONDIA is an International Organization which promotes scientific beekeeping for supporting employment and income generation as well as providing livelihoods to millions of poor farmers/beekeepers/others in the world, you are kindly requested to take up the matter with the concerned authorities so that the proposal to bring an amendment in honey standards of **not treating processed honey as ‘pure natural honey’** may not be approved. This seems like a **non-tariff trade barriers** in International market for **very high value Honeys of Tropical Countries** like, India, Vietnam etc.

Looking for an early positive response in the matter.

With Regards.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. B.L. Sarswat)

Dr. Peter Kozmus,
Acting President,
APIMONDIA, Rome, Italy
Email: peter.kozmus@czs.si

