

F. No. 6-2/2018-NBB
National Bee Board

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of
Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Govt. of India

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
Dated: 17.05.2020

To

1. The Secretary, MoEF & CC, Govt. of India,
2. The Secretary, MSME ,Govt. of India,
3. The Secretary, DoNER, Govt. of India,
4. The Secretary, M/o Rural Development, Govt. of India,
5. The Secretary, M/o Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India,
6. The Secretary, M/o Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India,
7. The Secretary, M/o AYUSH ,Govt. of India,
8. The Secretary, Deptt. of School Education, M/o of Human Resource
Development Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
9. The Secretary M/o Woman & Child Development Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
10. The DG, ICAR, Govt. of India,

Subject: Request for Celebrating World Bee Day on 20th May, 2020 — reg.

Sir,

I am directed to request you on the subject mentioned above and inform that beekeeping has been useful in pollination of crops, thereby, increasing income of the farmers/beekeepers by way of increasing crop yield and providing honey and other beehive products, viz. bees wax, bee pollen, propolis, royal jelly, bee venom, comb honey, etc. which may serve as source of livelihood for rural poor. Therefore, Beekeeping has been recognised as one of the important inputs for sustainable development of Agriculture and Horticulture.

2. Keeping in view the importance of beekeeping, a component "**Pollination Support through Beekeeping**" has been incorporated in **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture** (MIDH) for development of scientific beekeeping in the country. Further, **National Bee Board** (NBB) has been recognized as the nodal agency for overall development and promotion of scientific beekeeping.

3. Further, Govt. of India has also approved a new Central Sector Scheme entitled "**National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)**" for overall promotion and development of scientific beekeeping in mission mode to achieve the goal of "**Sweet Revolution**" in the country by giving thrust on capacity building & trainings, specific focus on women, input support for promotion & production, setting up of Integrated Beekeeping Development Centres (IBDCs), other Infrastructures for processing, value addition, market support, including collection, grading, trading, etc. centres, etc., digitization / online registration, etc., & R&D under 3 Mini Missions (MMs)-MM-I, MM-II & MM-III. An amount of Rs. 150.00 crores has been allotted for the year 2020-21 under the scheme.

4. In view of the above, to give wide publicity to create awareness & promote scientific beekeeping and uses of its products including honey, etc., it was decided by this Deptt. to celebrate World Bee Day (WBD) every year **on 20th May**, the date approved by **FAO** and endorsed by the **UN General Assembly**. The main theme of celebrating WBD is to **"SAVE BEES"**.

5 The main programmes/activities which may be included for this event could be: organizing exhibitions, conferences, seminars, "Honey festivals", publishing literature on importance of honeybees/ beekeeping in agriculture/ horticulture, publicity through electronic media/newspapers, awareness about uses of honey and other beehive products, promoting uses of honey in schools/ colleges, organising farmers/ beekeepers/ students/ villagers in villages/ towns/ cities, awareness about usage of honey and other beehive products in daily life & their importance in human health, displaying boards/sign boards, etc. on main/ public places, involving beekeepers/ scientists/ exporters/ traders/ processors, etc. of honey and other beehive products in the campaign. These all are expected to boost beekeeping activities & SAVE BEES in the States and our Country. However, the activities of organizing exhibition, conferences, seminars, Honey Festivals, etc. in which public participation is required should be avoided because of Lockdown due to COVID-19.

6. Keeping in view the above, you are kindly requested to issue instructions to the organizations/ agencies involved in beekeeping to celebrate World Bee Day (WBD) **on 20th May, 2020** in an appropriate manner in the field. The action taken in this regard may be communicated to this Department.

Yours Faithfully



**Dr. B.L. Sarswat,
Executive Director**

Copy for information to:

- I. Dy. Secretary (Hort.), Horticulture Division, DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
- II. Sr. PPS to Secy.(AC & FW) & Chairman, NBB, DAC & FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- III. PPS to Horticulture Commissioner and Member Secretary, NBB, DAC&FW Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.