



Dated: 19.05. 2020



### MESSAGE

Beekeeping supplements income generation to the rural people. The production of honey and pollination of various crops are two major roles of honeybees. It is being increasingly realized that bees could be less expensive input for promoting sustainable and eco-friendly agriculture and enhancing crop productivity. The potential benefits, due to bee pollination, in the form of increase in yields of various crops including fruits and vegetables, oilseeds, pulses and others, varies from 2% to 33150%. Honey Bees have their vital role in sustaining plants bio-diversity resulting in environmental stability. There is vast potential for beekeeping in the country. There is need to make efforts to marry and integrate the beekeeping programme with other programmes of agricultural and rural development at all the levels. Beekeeping /Honey bees **should be treated as fifth input for overall development of Agriculture, in sustainable manner**, in the country. The efficacy of other four inputs used in Agriculture, in some crops, fully regulated by this input.

2. Development & Multiplication of quality Nucleus Stocks of *A. cerana* and *A. mellifera* along with improved management practices for bee livestock in the country is need of the hour to increase production and productivity of several crops as well as honey. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is in operation / implementation in the country. Beekeeping is an important component in this Mission (MIDH) and many incentives are available for development of Beekeeping sector. Further, the National Bee Board has been recognized as Apex level organization to promote scientific beekeeping in the country. I call upon the people of the country to take advantage and start scientific beekeeping to strengthen their economy. National Bee Board has taken initiative to organize seminars / workshop and honey festival, trainings, publications, etc. for developing robust beekeeping in the country.

3. 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 Centers (IBDCs), setting up of bees disease diagnostic & treatment labs, honey & other beehive testing labs, development of quality nucleus stock & bee breeders other Infrastructures for processing, value addition, market support, including collection, grading, trading, etc. centers, etc., digitization / online registration, etc., & R&D under 3 Mini Missions (MMs)-MM-I, MM-II & MM-III. An amount of Rs. 25.00 crores was allotted & released under NBHM in the year 2019-20. An amount of Rs. 150.00 crores has been allotted for the year 2020-21 under the scheme.

4. Celebration of World Bee Day (WBD) will provide a forum for the beekeepers, researchers, planners, processors, traders, exporters and all other stakeholders to deliberate upon emerging issues for the development and promotion of beekeeping in the country and help in drawing strategies for overall development of this sector. This will also be useful in dissemination of proven technologies to the farmers / villagers / beekeepers for overall development of beekeeping. I take this opportunity to thank all the beekeepers, Scientists /Officials & other Stakeholders for their concerted efforts and contribution to bring to promote & developed scientific beekeeping & disseminating the technology in the field.

I wish for great success of celebration of World Bee Day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B.L. Sarswat', is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

**(Dr. B.L. Sarswat)**