

National Bee Board (NBB)
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW),

Dated:19.05.2020

Subject: A brief note for use of Secretary (AC & FW), DAC & FW for the occasion of Celebration of World Bee Day (WBD) on 20th May, 2020 to be organized by NBB -NCDC on 21st May, 2020-reg.

The World Bee Day (WBD) is being celebrated on **20th May every year**, as decided/declared by FAO, UNDP in 2018. The main theme of celebrating World Bee Day is to SAVE HONEYBEES. On this Day Honey Bee lovers want to give following messages about importance of honey bees for: (i) sustainable development of agriculture through pollination support; (ii) importance in human life; (iii) environmental sustainability;(iv) maintaining bio-diversity; (v) generating income and employment; and (vi) adoption for livelihood.

2. Beekeeping, which was earlier a forest-based activity, has emerged as agri-business enterprise. Besides this, honey bees, as an efficient pollinator, are responsible for improving crop productivity. Keeping in view the importance of beekeeping, a component “Pollination Support through Beekeeping” has been incorporated under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. The scheme is being implemented by the Departments of Horticulture/Agriculture of State Governments. Further, NBB has been recognized as a nodal agency to promote scientific beekeeping in the country through capacity building programmes, distribution of honey bee colonies, bee hives, beekeeping equipments, etc. under MIDH.

3. Diversified Agro-climatic conditions of India provide great potential and opportunities for beekeeping. As per the NBB’s estimates, to pollinate 12 major agricultural and horticultural crops for enhancing their yield up to the level of developed countries, more than 2000 lakh honey bee colonies are required.

4. On the occasion of WBD, I would like to draw your kind attention to the main challenges facing beekeeping which are changing cropping pattern, climate change & quality production of honey & other beehive products and price fluctuation at beekeepers’ level for about last two years which ultimately affects the income from beekeeping industry.

5. Among others, to promote scientific beekeeping in the country and facilitate beekeepers/farmers for getting latest knowledge & technologies, quality bee colonies & beekeeping equipments, etc. in their States, **16 Integrated Beekeeping Development Centres (IBDCs)** as role model of beekeeping have been commissioned, one each in the States of Haryana,

Delhi, Bihar, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh till date. All the important activities/units, viz. development of quality nucleus stock, multiplication of quality nucleus stock into bee colonies by bee breeders/mass queen rearing, technology & impact demonstration center, training and other capacity building programme center, center for collection & storage of honey & other bee products & their quality control, processing and marketing center, honey bee disease diagnostic lab, honey and other beehive products testing laboratories, beekeeping equipment manufacturing units, registration of beekeepers, information centers, awareness, motivation and new technologies advances/innovations, capacity building programmes, etc., are the parts of these centers (IBDCs).

6. 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.

7. Beekeepers/farmers are requested to adopt scientific beekeeping & produce quality honey & other beehive products by availing the benefits of IBDCs in their areas as well Government schemes. It is also requested to use honey and other beehive products, viz. royal jelly, bee pollen, comb honey, etc., which are very useful for health & in human life.

8. On the occasion of World Bee Day (WBD), I congratulate all the beekeepers/farmers/other stakeholders involved in beekeeping and NBB & NCDC. Because of your hard work and dedication to the beekeeping industry, the country has produced 1,20,000 MTs of honey during the year 2018-19. **India is fourth largest honey producing Country in the World.** India also exporting honey to various countries. About 50% of honey produced in the Country is being exported to various Countries. The credit for this goes to the beekeepers, farmers, other stakeholders & National Bee Board, DAC & FW. The country is proud of its beekeepers/farmers.

I wish the World Bee Day a grand success