



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

# DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR NORTHERN UGANDA (DINU)



EUROPEAN UNION

## CODE OF PRACTICE FOR APIARY MANAGEMENT, HANDLING AND PROCESSING OF BEE PRODUCTS

US 641:2006



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## Construction of Hives

Traditional hives	Modern hives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Can be made from tree Logs, woven baskets, reeds, clay pots and bamboo.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Made from well-seasoned timber;</li><li>- In top bar hives, the bars must be equal;</li><li>- In Langstroth hives, the frames must be equal;</li><li>- There should be a metallic cover on the top to avoid water entering the hive.</li></ul>



**Woven beehive**



**Log hives**



**Kenya top bar hives**



**Langstroth beehive**

### Requirements for establishment of an apiary

- Site must be accessible, not damp, such as near a swamp;
- Availability of nectar and pollen (forage);

- Availability of shade and protection from strong wind;
- Availability of water for the bees;
- Clean and fenced;
- 100 m from public places;
- Protected from fire, noise and termites;
- Hives should be hung and installed on metallic poles with rat guards;
- The poles should be oiled or greased to prevent termites;
- Quality hives;
- Baiting of hives with beeswax.



**Log hive in a shade**

### **Hive siting**

- Straight line;
- T designed;
- Zigzag pattern;
- Cross pattern.

### **Inspection of apiaries**

- Before you inspect the beehive, proper dressing code should be followed and a well-lit bee smoker, knife, bee brush and hive tool should be used to avoid bee stings;
- Ensure that the apiary and its surroundings are always slashed;
- Inspect for pests and in case they are found, control measures should be applied such as greasing hive hanging wires, rat guards

- and baring the ground;
- Availability of water for the bees;
- Avoid spraying crops at flowering stages to prevent pesticide contamination and bee death.



### Inspection of hives

- Check for comb construction by the bees whether they are straight on the bars or cross;
- Check for the queen's laying pattern but care should be taken not to crush the queen;
- Check for honey maturity.



### Indicators for mature honey

- Sealed honeycomb;
- Honey scent;

- Aggressiveness of bees;
- Clustering of bees outside the hive;
- Bees stop carrying pollen;
- Dropping of flowers.

### Harvesting honey

- Smoke around the hive and wait for a few minutes and open from the back of the hive, one bar at a time, and cut the combs;
- Avoid taking out combs with brood and honey;
- Replace the bars in their original position.





**A well-dressed person going to harvest honey**



**Combed honey**



**Strained honey/liquid**

- This honey should be packaged after 48 hours to allow air bubbles to come on top.



## Storage of honey

Honey should be stored in airtight containers to avoid absorbing water from the environment.



## Hygienic practices

- Personnel, equipment, container and environment must be kept clean.



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