



There is an urgent need for capacity building in this field, to create awareness among the farmers/ beekeepers and youths about the importance of beekeeping not only as source of honey production and a variety of beehive products but because it enhances the productivity of crops due to better pollination and seed setting which aids in propagating organic farming in the State. Beekeeping is a profitable preposition and that the use of bees to ensure better pollination in agriculture/ horticulture crops is to be promoted.

Once the beekeepers see the business side of scientific beekeeping, they will be the most active stakeholders in safeguarding the natural environment as they will know their honey crops are dependent on local vegetation mostly trees as their source of nectar. This practice will reduce the pressure on neighbouring forest areas.

## COURSE CONTENT

FOUNDATION COURSE: **Apiculturist (Wild Bee) - NTFP** (NSQF Level 2)

**Duration:** 240 Hours - Up to 30 days

**Batch Size:** 25 candidates

**No of batches per year (2024-25):** 4 (Four)

**Eligibility:** No Formal Education/ School dropouts/ Unemployed Youths/ Farmers / Enthusiasts

**Age Limit:** 18 years and above

### Syllabus Structure

(Bee handling, colony organization, capturing, grafting, exposure visits, extraction, processing and storage, apiary management, seasonal and disease management, pollination, preparation of floral calendar, documentation of traditional knowledge, financial support and stakeholder network, enterprising and marketing, etc)

- Basic orientation & Theory- 65 hrs
- Onsite Practical/ exposure visits – 145 hrs
- Employability Skills/Sustainable enterprise management and marketing aspects – 30 hrs

### For Details Contact:

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**ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**  
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सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,  
Government of India



# GREEN SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



VALUE ADDITION AND MARKETING OF NTFPs (ANIMAL ORIGIN):

## APICULTURIST (WILD BEE)

GSDP Certificate Course (NSQF Level 2)

Batch Size: 25 | 240 Hrs



Implementing and Facilitating Agency  
State EIACP Hub, Forest and Environment Department,  
Government of Sikkim

In collaboration with multi-stakeholders, registered bodies of Sikkim

### Green Skill Development

Programme is an initiative of the EIACP, Economic Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India in line with the Skill India Mission.

Through this programme several other green skilling courses are being imparted by a network of about 70 EIACP Hubs and Resource Partners across the country. The programme endeavours to develop green skilled workers having technical knowledge and commitment to sustainable development, which will help in the attainment of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), as well as Waste Management Rules (2016).



## GREEN SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Certificate Course on

# Apiculturist (Wild Bee) - NTFP

In accordance to National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF)–Level 2

### Objective of the course:

The basic aim of this certificate course is to provide green skill training to youths and local people who have/have not been able to continue education due to different financial or social constraints but has an urge to learn new things and do something fruitful. The training will provide hands-on knowledge and understanding about the wild beekeeping and ways of conversation so it can be spread to the general public through them and also create job or self-employment opportunities for the trainees. It is a certified course aimed at creating green jobs or self-employment opportunities, a humble contribution towards green economy of the nation.

### Prospects of Bee Keeping or Apiculture:

Bees are the most important insects, the most versatile, the most active, and consequently, the best-known pollinators of several plants and are best adapted for various blossoms and floral structures. But of all these the most important are the honey bees. It is the most important component of biodiversity and without which it is

impossible to protect and maintain our rich biodiversity. It also helps in the conservation of forest and grassland ecosystem.

Beekeeping or apiculture is a means to diversify livelihoods and to make the best use of available resources, an important component of our farming systems which help in achieving sustainable agriculture.

Yet another significant, but not widely recognized role, is that honeybees enhance

the productivity of agricultural, horticultural and fodder crops because of effective cross pollination.

It has been estimated that the value of honeybees as pollinators is about 18-20 times more than their value as producers of honey

and other hive products. Inputs for apiculture are mostly

simple and locally available. The honey bees can be kept in the hives and are very easy to be managed.

There abundance on the crop can easily be manipulated. Beekeeping can be carried out by men and women of any age, needs very little land, time or equipment.

*Apis cerana* bees are native to Indian sub-continent. Because of being active foragers, the hive bees can also be utilized as pollen dispensers for increased crop pollination. There is major potential for grassroots poverty alleviation and empowerment of local people through the practice of beekeeping with indigenous bee species *Apis cerana*.

Apiculture is a powerful way of tackling poverty at the grassroots level. In India, besides food security, the concern to improve livelihood of small holder farms has become a dominant issue. There is need to provide farmers additional options for increasing their income. Commercial demands for special product such as honey, royal jelly are some of the emerging marketing options to boost rural economy.

Since, apiculture is a non-land based activity and does not require much input can help in generating income opportunity for the weaker section of the society. Not only does the practice of beekeeping have intrinsic health benefits through providing a food source of great value which is lacking in rural areas, but beekeeping through few inputs capitalises on a ready supply of pollen. In rural areas, there is almost an unlimited source of pollen and bees aid greatly in the natural cross pollination of local crops. Health benefits for local people reliant on small agriculture to provide food are centered-around the enriching qualities of honey in a diet which is usually dependent upon staple foods. Beekeeping represents a viable microeconomic enterprise which pay s for itself in the first year, provides health benefits and is a practical insurance against crop failure and local unemployment.

The unscientific beekeeping is mainly due to lack of trained manpower. Beekeeping in fringe villages near to Protected Areas are mostly practiced in log hive made of tree truck with traditional knowledge results in very low yield. This also leads to killing of large number of bees in the process. The honey remains unfiltered and gets fermented. Mostly they practice honey gathering through crude extraction method and sell it in local market in whatever bottles they have. Honey available in local market in the rural areas or towns are mainly honey of picking and honey resulting from small scale beekeeping.

