



Demonstration to work experience students and staff of the use of a solar wax melter.

Hive Inspection at Bodles Apiary



Open field pollination trail with Cantaloupe



Checking honey samples for the presence of Bacillus Larvae Spores (AFB Disease)



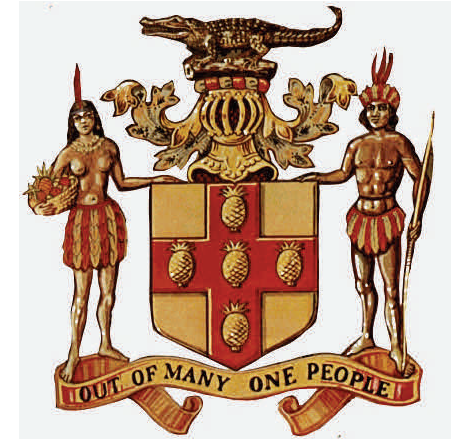
View of an Apiary



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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
BODLES RESEARCH STATION**

APICULTURE UNIT

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To increase efficiency, productivity and competitiveness in the local beekeeping industry.

ROLE & FUNCTION OF THE APICULTURE UNIT

To provide the following services to the beekeeping industry:

Apiculture Research:

- To identify best practices applicable to local conditions.
- To equip beekeepers with the requisite knowledge to enhance their beekeeping business.
- To advise The Government on all apiculture related matters
- To liaise with NGOs , beekeeping organizations, beekeepers and other stake holders in support of the development of the industry

Regulatory Apiculture:

To protect and monitor the beekeeping industry against exotic bee pests and to monitor/control existing bee pests in Jamaica

ACTIVITIES

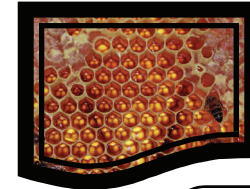
- Conduct trainings to foster technology transfer both individually and collectively
- To conduct field visits / apiary site inspection.
- To identify & monitor bee pests and diseases.
- Monitor all apiaries.
- To monitor ports of entry for bee swarms.
- To regulate the imports of bees, honey & other bee products.
- To provide support service to bee farmers.
- To develop Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Strategies.
- To implement special beekeeping development projects and programmes.

Additionally the Unit facilitates the following

- Sugar Letters for farmers to access feed for their colonies.
- Permits for the movement of bees.
- Apistan/Apiguard Letters for the purchasing of pesticides protect hives from the Varroa Mite.
- Status letters for registered bee farmer.
- Identify and facilitate research projects in the area of Apiculture .

The Apiculture Unit is staffed with highly trained officers specializing in Apiculture in all parishes:

- Mr. Reginald Peddy-Chief Apiculture Officer—464-1366
- Mr. Kwesi Palmer-Portland, St. Mary & St. Ann—506-5126
- Mrs. Suzette Bernard Miller—Kingston, St. Andrew & St. Thomas - 443-4187
- Mr. Hugh Smith -St. Catherine—464-4268
- Mr. Fitz Shaw—Clarendon Manchester & South Trelawney - 4058013
- Mr. Attoy Williams—St. Elizabeth & Westmorland—840-7274
- Mr. Wayne Anderson—Hanover, St. James & Northern Trelawney—506-2778



APICULTURE UNIT

Increasing Efficiency, Productivity and Competitiveness of Local Beekeeping Industry

Apiculture Unit Profile

The Apiculture Unit operates under the Plant Protection Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOA) with Research and Regulatory activities being done at the Bodles Research Station and extension work off station. These areas were merged to create one Unit in 2001 arising from the closure of the Beekeeping development project. The Apiculture Unit continues to pursue its' mandate of piloting the development of the Beekeeping Industry in Jamaica.

Impact of Apiculture Unit

The Apiculture Unit has been responsible for the most part in spearheading the success of the industry through various programmes and projects. It has fostered and monitored vast

amounts of capital injected both at the individual level and government intervention and contribution from new governmental organizations.

Composition/Component of the Industry

The Apiculture Unit has on record 2,380 beekeepers with a total of 43,000 active beehives valued at \$946.0 million. In addition a value of \$400.0 million has been placed on motor vehicles, buildings and beekeeping equipment associated with their beekeeping activities.

An estimated 12,000 persons depend on beekeeping to a great extent for their livelihood. In addition the indirect benefit from the bees through the pollination of fruits and seed crops is phenomenal. The industry generates in excess of \$642.84 million annually from the sale of honey at the farm gate.

The three major programmes of the Apiculture Unit are:

- **Regulatory Apiculture:** Prevention, control and monitoring of bee pests to include control on importations
- **Apiculture Research:** Conducting meaningful research to enable the advancement of the Beekeeping Industry and the general Agricultural sector as a whole.



- **Beekeeping Extension:** This involves the provision and delivery of an efficient and effective extension service in the industry to ensure sustainability and improvement in the livelihood of those involved.

