

2017 APIMONDIA NEWSLETTER

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PH: President of APIMONDIA, Philip Mc Cabe, Prof Ahmad Al Khazim, to his right, Mohamed Najeh, on the extreme right and friends meeting prior to the congress.



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EDITORIAL

Over these past months across the world there has been much discussions on ‘Climate Change’. Weekly we see on our television’s news of some catastrophe affecting people on different continents. Homes being washed away or destroyed by tornados or being burned by our-of-control fires, people left with nothing but the cloths they stand up in. We then have many brilliant agencies across the world sending aid and volunteers to assist these unfortunate people get their lives back together. While it is correct that all our emphasis should be on helping our fellow man, we must also think of the loss of livestock, animals and of course our beloved honeybee. It’s sad to report that many beekeeping colleagues have suffered devastating losses of the bee colonies;



Please see article written by MICHELE ANNA JORDAN
“FOR THE PRESS DEMOCRAT” | November 9, 2017.

Sonoma Magazine: [*Despite Heavy Losses From Fires, Sonoma Beekeepers Focus on Regeneration*](#)



On a happier note, one of the great developments in recent times is the work being done in the Middle East and Arabic World. From the 3rd to the 8th February I had the pleasure of attending;

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ARAB BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION.

Herewith my report on the event:

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ARAB BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

The humble honeybee has been on this earth for millions of years and has not changed in all time but what has changed is how we humans have managed and manipulated them. From writings dating back seven thousand years we have learned how our forefathers were using honeybee related products for both human and animal health. Back two thousand years ago people had come to recognise the importance of having honeybees for the supply of honey, pollen and propolis.

Not all lands had honeybees for different reasons, location, climate, both hot and cold, but the honeybee was carried by man as he travelled across continents and indeed continues to this day.

People have often quoted that you cannot have honeybees in the deserts, but the above-named conference proves the very opposite. Held in association with GFIA (Global forum for innovations in agriculture) this excellent show-case event brought beekeepers from many countries together to share their experiences and knowledge. Chaired by Prof. Ahmad Alkhazim Al Ghamdi an excellent set of presentations from globally recognised speakers has awakened a spirit and brought due recognition to beekeeping in the Arab World.

In addition to the lecture presentations, a Honey Show was held to highlight the quality of the honey available. This brought a whole new dimension to this event as 'Honey Shows' were, up to now, not very high on the beekeeper's agenda. However, beekeepers recognise that consumers are now, more than ever, conscious of what they eat and are becoming acutely aware of having top quality certified products available to them. The beekeeping community need to raise awareness of the quality of the honey they produce, and Honey Show's is one way of doing this.

The Exhibition Stands too gave a good insight as to the products available on the market to assist beekeepers and also the honeybee. However, it is also recognised that beekeepers must be vigilant is what they use or feed to their bees and that this in no way affects or contaminates honey or related products.

The main stand at the Expo was the Platinum Sponsor for the event ANHB Company whose Chairman is His Highness, Engr SHK Salem Bin Sultan Al Qasimi. His Highness spent two full days in the Exhibition meeting beekeepers and suppliers. His leadership, motivation and guidance were truly inspirational and visible for all to see. This innovative company are well on their way to becoming 'Market Leaders' in the honeybee world. Founded by Mohammed Najeh Khafagy and his family, His Highness and Mohammed have taken the honeybee world by storm with their innovative actions so far. This must be the most exciting development in beekeeping in recent times.

Apimondia, the global beekeeping organisation, was well represented by the attendance of its President, Vice-President and four Commissioners and all gave presentations and we look forward to working with the beekeepers to continue to develop beekeeping across the Middle East and Arab World.

As with all Apimondia Congresses or Symposium's, Technical Tours are part and parcel for such events. Our tour was to Hatta where we witnessed a most amazing sight, queen rearing at all stages of development. The quality of the bees was what was noted first, healthy and vigorous and on examining the 'brood-nest' the quality was there for all to see, full brood patterns and bees 'packing' pollen. Full 'ripe' queen cells left those in attendance in awe at their quality.

This event was a remarkable experience and will long be remembered by all those lucky enough to have been able to attend.

I can only wish continued success to His Highness, Engr SHK Salem Bin Sultan Al Qasimi and Mohammed Najeh Khafagy and their team for their sterling efforts in the work they are doing.



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By Nicola Bradbeard

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Most of the world's poorest people are living in rural areas, with 80% of farmland in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa managed by smallholders. IN Africa alone, there are 41 million smallholders, and beekeeping provides a resilient source of livelihood for many of these people.



Here is just one example from East Uganda, where many small holders like Peter Gimaswa (above) have been losing their maize crops because of the newly arrived invasive crop pest Fall army worm. Fortunately Peter can rely on his bees, and thanks to the training he has received, is selling honey to buy food for his family - in place of the maize they have lost. Peter keeps his bees in simple, home-made top-bar hives (below). Now other people are asking for Peter's help to show them how to get started with bees.

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One such person is coffee farmer, Yusuf, pictured below in his coffee forest, with his new bee house. Yusuf noticed that Peter would come to Yusuf's coffee field to place bait hives to catch swarms and so he asked him what he was doing. Peter explained, and since that time has been teaching Yusuf how to keep bees of his own. Beekeeping integrates well with coffee as the bees forage on and pollinate coffee. The coffee shade trees also provide excellent bee forage.

Annett (above), another trainee, keeps her bees indoors. The entrances can be seen in the house walls. For her, and other members of the group to which she belongs, honey is not only a source of cash, but a source of food. By mixing it with water, these women have been using honey to feed their children during the hunger period brought on by Uganda's recent drought.

In Uganda, and the other places where we are working, beekeeping is helping rural people to build diverse and resilient livelihoods to counter their tremendous vulnerability.

Pics © Bees for Development

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APIMONDIA'S PEOPLE

Asger Søgaard Jørgensen was president of Apimondia from 1999 to 2009. He has now been involved in the activities of APIMONDIA as voluntary assistant to the management.



After I retired from my formal positions in APIMONDIA and the Danish Beekeepers Associations I have had the great pleasure to be able to work with some applied research activities investigating the pollen resources of honeybees in a 3 years project. Then participating in the CSI citizen Science project on the pollen resources of honeybees for 2 years and lately development of production of monofloral honeys in a wet cool climate of Denmark.

Although I have not been active in the work of APIMONDIA I have followed the work and development of the organisation. I am pleased to note the strong development of the organisation and to see that more and more active, knowledgeable people have joined the fraternity raising the activity level of the organisation.

My good friend Philip McCabe has allowed me to join the forces and help with some development activities of APIMONDIA. Thank you Philip.

Recently I enjoyed a "Beekeeping Safari" to Argentina and Brasil with a Danish group of beekeepers and spouses.. With only 2 weeks travel partly as a tourist you can not get a full insight in the situation for beekeepers in those 2 countries.

But we learned a lot visiting the training apiary of SADA where new beekeepers were trained in the basics art of apiculture as well in marketing of the products. But also how to expand the product line from apiculture through production of pollen, propolis and even how to make excellent beer with honey.

In the south of the great plains "The Pampas" we visited descendants of Danish Immigrants to Argentina. Some of the 4 generation still speaking Danish as in the past. But also among them skilled beekeepers selecting and breeding honeybees with good temper, hygienic behavior and high productivity. We learned about the problems faced by Argentinian beekeepers due to the changes in the agricultural activities on the Pampas. Direct drilling of Soy-beans after spraying the fields with Roundup killing all flowering weeds and leaving only a desert for the bees.

It was also a great experience to visit the training bee yard of the Melipona beekeepers association of Rio de Janeiro. The vice President of the organisation Gesimar Celio showed us 5 different species of

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stingless bees and explained with great enthusiasm about the biology of the bees. Later he invited us to visit his bee yard with africanised bees. No problems with Varroa or small hive beetles. The bees manage these problems themselves. Good honey crops, but very aggressive bees.

One of the most positive aspects of the apicultural fraternity is that beekeepers love to share their knowledge and experiences. You might be competitors on the honey market - but in the bee yard you are friends and share.

During my contacts with beekeepers and scientists the problems caused by pesticides is a hot topic. The widespread use of weedkillers such as Roundup destroying everything, as we saw in Argentina. The problems caused by the Neonicotinoid insecticides is also of major concern.

In Europe the problems caused by some of the neonicotinoids has recently been assessed by the European Food Safety Authority "EFSA". The conclusions of the assessment published the 28 february this year are:

"Most uses of neonicotinoid pesticides represent a risk to wild bees and honeybees, according to assessments published today by EFSA. The Authority has updated its risk assessments of three neonicotinoids – clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam – that are currently subject to restrictions in the EU because of the threat they pose to bees.

These new conclusions update those published in 2013, after which the European Commission imposed controls on use of the substances.

For the new assessments, which this time cover wild bees – bumblebees and solitary bees – as well as honeybees, EFSA's Pesticides Unit carried out an extensive data collection exercise, including a systematic literature review, to gather all the scientific evidence published since the previous evaluations.

The team also applied the guidance document developed by EFSA specifically for the risk assessment of pesticides and bees.

Jose Tarazona, Head of EFSA's Pesticides Unit, said: "The availability of such a substantial amount of data as well as the guidance has enabled us to produce very detailed conclusions.

"There is variability in the conclusions, due to factors such as the bee species, the intended use of the pesticide and the route of exposure. Some low risks have been identified, but overall the risk to the three types of bees we have assessed is confirmed."

EFSA finalised its conclusions following two separate consultations with pesticide experts in the EU Member States. The experts have supported the conclusions.

As with the previous assessments, exposure of bees to the substances was assessed via three routes: residues in bee pollen and nectar; dust drift during the sowing/application of the treated seeds; and water consumption.

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Next steps

EFSA's conclusions will be shared with risk managers from the European Commission and Member States, who will consider potential amendments to the current restrictions on the use of these pesticides.”

APIMONDIA and other apicultural organisations has now the arguments and the obligation to discuss this assesment with the international and national legislators in order to have proper restrictions imposed on the use of these substances.

ASGER AND FREINDS VISITNG WARSOWSKIS BEEYARD CLOSE TO NECHOCHEA IN ARGENTINA.



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By Jodie Goldsworthy (AUT)

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OCEANIA THE PLACE TO BE FOR BUILDING YOUR BEEKEEPING KNOWLEDGE THIS JUNE

Australia and New Zealand enjoy relatively mild winters in comparison to Europe and this June two amazing events take place in our region that should be highly attractive to beekeepers from all over the world. Winter is a wonderful time to see both Australia and New Zealand at their greenest and you can easily move about in a pleasant winter climate that for many other parts of the world are akin to Spring or Autumn temperatures.

From June 27th - June 30th Australia hosts an Apimondia endorsed symposium - The 3rd Australian Bee Congress specially themed "Pollination and Beekeeping for the Future" which will be held on the sunny Gold Coast in Queensland where temperatures at that time of the year are usually in the early 20degrees Celsius range. The event also coincides with the 1st Australian Native Stingless Bee Conference.

The Symposium will combine a unique mix of pollination research using European honeybees and other pollinators and the exploration of issues that keenly limit European honeybees' abilities to adequately meet an increasing demand for food production.

Explore the program and register at <http://australianbeecongress.com.au/>

If you're thinking about a trip to the Oceania region then you can easily also link in the Apiculture New Zealand National Conference in Blenheim, New Zealand being held from the 22nd - 24th July. This year is the biggest ever planned with a variety of knowledgeable speakers, seminars, interactive workshops and an enormous tradeshow exhibition.

Make your enquiries and bookings at <http://apicultureconference2018.co.nz/>

Exciting things happen in the world of bees and honey in both Australia and New Zealand where some of the world's most special and unique honey originate. These two events are a fantastic opportunity to learn from some of the world's most innovative and specialised beekeepers and enjoy some of the most beautiful environments and landscapes on the planet. Do let us know if we can help with your travels to these regions at any time.

