



Iyanola Apiculture Collective (IAC) Introduction to Beekeeping Course Outline

COURSE COVERAGE AND SIGNIFICANCE

This course will provide the participant with all the basic information required to conduct beekeeping in the Caribbean. It was developed for new Caribbean beekeepers as well as those with less than two (2) years worth of experience. It will provide important information on what will be required to rear bees, how to do so and how to expand apiaries. This online course represents the first of its kind for the Caribbean and is the next step in the development of the beekeeping tradition in the region.

Beekeeping, as a tradition and livelihood, provides many benefits, some of which are as follows:

1. **Financial benefits:** beekeeping can provide a sustainable income to a beekeeper, if managed properly. Bee hives provide a variety of financially viable products, not limited to honey. The IAC hopes to develop the apiculture industry as another revenue source across the entire Caribbean;
2. **Health benefits:** Many beekeepers state that their trade provides them with mental and physical health support. They state that tending to their bees is a peaceful and relaxing exercise. Further health benefits have been identified from inhaling the air from hives, consuming propolis and other hive products.
3. **Environmental Conservation:** With increasing deforestation and habitat fragmentation, many pollinators, including bees, are negatively impacted by reduced food and habitat. Beekeeping, if conducted in tandem with the environment, is an important method of conserving bees and the benefits they provide as pollinators. This is especially important in terms of achieving SDG 15 “Life on Land”, the main objective of which is to Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;

PRE-REQUISITES

No qualifications are required to begin this course. However, participants are required to have some internet accessibility in order to access the online content and speak with instructors.

COURSE GOALS

The main goal of this course is to train persons in the basics of beekeeping. This course is another IAC initiative aimed at developing beekeeping across the Caribbean.

INSTRUCTORS INFORMATION

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CONTENT AND DELIVERY

The IAC will deliver all the basic information required to understand bees, beekeeping and hive products through this online course using two different methods: presentations and videos. Traditionally, the art of learning beekeeping was done via in-person training however, with the rise of COVID-19, video training has now replaced in-person training, a first for the Caribbean.

The course will be delivered using a two-pronged approach: the basic theory content will be provided via presentations whilst videos will be used to illustrate field work.

This online bee-keeping course will consist of 16 modules, 10 theoretical and 6 practical as follows :

1. Ecological importance of bees (theoretical)
2. Basic Honey Bee Biology (*Apis mellifera*) (theoretical)
3. Health and Safety in Beekeeping (theoretical)
4. Hive Boxes (theoretical)
5. Hive Production System and Frames (practical)
6. Tools & PPE's (practical)
7. Hive Inspection (practical)
8. Diseases and Predators of Honeybees (theoretical)
9. Hive inspection looking for signs of diseases and predators (practical)
10. How to prepare feed, and when to feed (theoretical and practical)
11. Field assignments (practical)
12. Economics of Apiculture (theoretical)
13. Honey (theoretical)
14. Honey Extraction (practical)
15. Value added products (theoretical)
16. Packaging Standards (theoretical)
17. Gender considerations in beekeeping (theoretical)



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For each module, participants will be evaluated in two (2) ways:

I. **Online quizzes.** Each module will have its own online quiz which will evaluate the participants' ability to understand and assimilate the relevant content.

II. **Videos.** Participants will be required to submit a video on the module to the course coordinators in order to assess their understanding of the content in a real-life context. Participants can use drawing, visit beekeepers or use their own equipment in order to prepare videos.

The IAC hopes to partner with mentor beekeepers in each country via the Association of Caribbean Beekeeping Organisations (ACBO). The purpose of the mentors will be to lend support to beekeepers completing the course in their respective countries through an apprenticeship programme. The country beekeeping mentors will be identified based on the country registration for the course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, the participant should have a basic knowledge and understanding of beekeeping as well as be able to set up and maintain their own apiary.

COURSE SUPPORT AND ASSESSMENT

The Instructors will offer at least four (4) online, live tutorial sessions during the course, as well as at least four (4) field sessions, to participants.

Participants will have to complete a short multiple choice exam as well as submit a series of short videos in order to successfully complete this course.

CERTIFICATION

Participants who have successfully completed the course multiple choice exam and have completed the practical exercises will be awarded a certification of completion.

For further information, please feel free to contact Richard Matthias.