

Approaches to targeting the poorest people through beekeeping in Amhara, Ethiopia

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By

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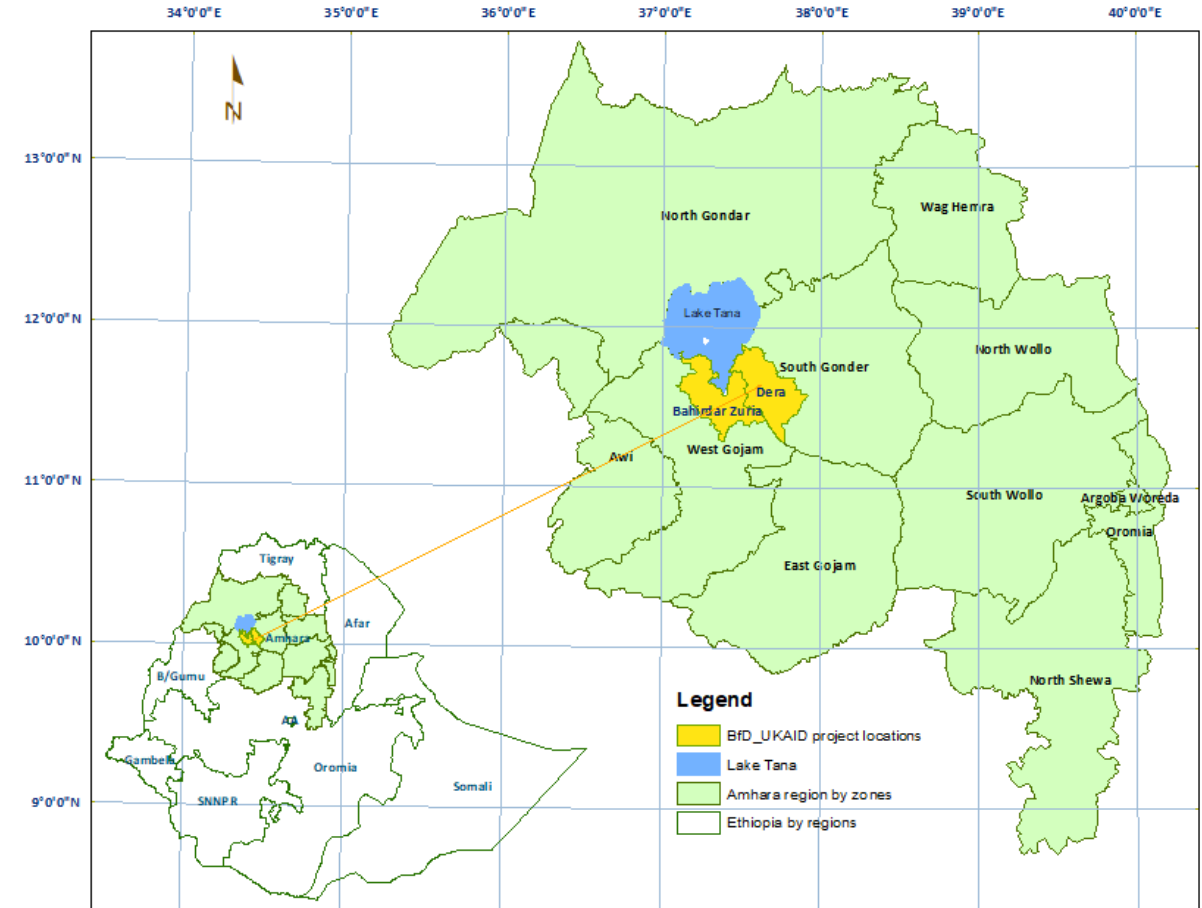
Organizational Overview

- BfDE is a local NGO operating in Ethiopia since 2012.
- The organisation has delivered seven interventions since 2012, with three projects ongoing.
- BfdE secured a total of £650,000 from multiple donors for completed projects and supported 1,723HH (786M, 937F) in resource poor communities.
- BfdE focusses on low-cost, sustainable beekeeping production systems.
- We also integrating beekeeping with environmental resources management.



Where we work

- We began working in North-west Region of Ethiopia.
- Specific intervention locations so far include: Bahir Dar Zuria, Dera, and Dangla Districts.
- We aim to expand our geographical coverage, as our capacity grows.



Our Stakeholders

- BfDE works closely with **local government** district offices and **Regional bureaus of agriculture**.
- We have a strong **partnership** with **Bees for Development** in the UK.
- We also work closely with like-minded professional and organisations all over the world
- We acknowledge and thank **multiple donors** (Bees for Development, Trade Advance Ltd., Aid Direct DFID, CEPF, NABU, Rotary International, Rowse Honey Ltd.).



Grounds for our interventions

- Declining agricultural productivity – due to soil exhaustion
- Growing rural youth unemployment; landlessness; and socio-economic marginalization of women
- Degradation of environmental resources vital to livelihoods
- Declining bee population in agricultural areas, due to rising use of agrochemicals
- Existing agricultural extension system gives greater emphasis to frame hive based beekeeping
- Beekeeping can enable poor households, unemployed youth, the landless and women to get out of poverty
- However, these segments of the society lack the knowledge, skills and resources to run beekeeping as a business



Our Approaches

- Targeting the poor, women, landless, unemployed youth and people with disabilities – helping them to start beekeeping
- Promoting top-bar hives and imparting beekeeping skills
- Practical training at all stages of the beekeeping cycle (seasonal beekeeping management)
- Natural resources management (degraded area closure to recover and tree planting)
- Beyond honey production (honey quality management and market linkages)
- Working with local government



Key achievements

1. Reaching people who have never kept bees before

- Our baseline survey showed that people without bees were the poorest
- The most vulnerable non-beekeepers were targeted
- We helped them become independent beekeepers
- We achieved this through linking non-beekeepers with existing beekeepers through a mentorship approach



Key achievements

2. Good knowledge and skills in beekeeping:

- Top-bar hive making
- Bee colony management e.g. multiplication
- Honey harvesting
- Honey handling
- Dearth period management









Key achievements

3. Provision of minimal input for beekeeping start-up:

- Hand tools
- Top bars (of the correct dimension) for the first hive
- Bee colony
- Protective clothings



Key achievements

4. Increases in adoption of top-bar hives. These are local-style beekeeper-friendly hives.

The percentage of top-bar hives usage increased from 1% in 2013 to 8.4% in 2019.

Hives are made by beekeepers.



Key achievements

5. Increased honey yields

- Average honey yields from colonies in top-bar hives is now 18kg/colony/year
- Total honey output of 393 tons harvested by 1,723 (786M, 937F) project beneficiary households since 2013



Key achievements

6. Increased household income from honey sales

- The total gross Income from 2013 to 2018 in all projects \$1,378,138
- Cases from UK AID Direct project, for example, exhibited 20% increase in annual income as a result of honey sales.
- This contributed to reduction in proportion of severely food insecure HHs by around 65%



Key achievements

7. Rehabilitation of the environment

- Increased coverage and density of perennial vegetation
- Increased availability of forage for bees and other pollinators and wildlife



Before intervention



After intervention

Key lessons

“Beekeeping is accessible for the poorest”

- Project beneficiaries have proved that beekeeping is not only a rich men's venture, as previously seen.
- Poor households, landless, unemployed youth and women have become successful in it.
- Justifies the capacity of the sector to alleviate poverty alleviation, now and in the future.



Key lessons

“Green and Commercial”

- Beekeeping offers a ‘win-win’ approach to supporting livelihoods and tackling environmental degradation and climate change.



Plant trees for nectar
and pollen for bees



Produce more honey



Get more income

Challenges and Recommendations

- Investment in beekeeping to meet the Sustainable Development Goals is relatively limited despite its multiple and sustainable benefits.
- BfDE calls the international development community to pay increased attention to the beekeeping sector in Ethiopia and globally.

Thank you for listening!



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www.beesfordevelopment.org/partner-organisations/ethiopia