

# Beekeeping Training Using Participatory Methodologies in Vietnam

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# Beekeeping in Vietnam

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- “Forest honey” (from *A. cerana*): US\$4/litre bottle
- Beekeeping is as lucrative as pig-rearing, but less effort
- Central Highlands: ~25% of people fall below Vietnamese poverty line— very poor communities



# Preliminary Community Surveys

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Surveys: sources of income, seasonal and daily activities, beekeeping experience.

Select training participants.

Community mapping:  
floral resources and  
agricultural activities





# Project– sequence of beekeeping training activities

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1. Select communes with good beekeeping potential (good numbers of fruit trees– citrus, starfruit, etc.) (early Year 1)
  - ✓ Experienced extension personnel can do this very well.
2. Conduct preliminary socioeconomic visit, select trainees (May, Year 1)



3. Intro beekeeping training (November, Year 1)
4. Several follow-up visits (3-4) during the year
5. Advanced beekeeping training (November, Year 2) and monitoring of progress
6. Project Evaluation

## Learning by doing

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- Shift from lecture-style training to active learning
- 30-60 hives brought for training made shift possible.
- This costs more BUT understanding of bees and beekeeping is greatly improved.
- Must balance costs (outlay of money) against improved effectiveness of training.





# Beekeeping training



How to approach and check a hive



How to remove frames from hive



# Beekeeping training



How to divide a hive into two



Simple method of queen rearing



# Beekeeping training



Learning about hive equipment



Compare traditional & modern hives



# Beekeeping training



Evaluating colony strength



Hiving a swarm of bees



# Beekeeping training

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Building bee hives



Fitting wax foundation in frames



# Beekeeping training



Making a simple queen cage



Extracting honey



# Beekeeping training

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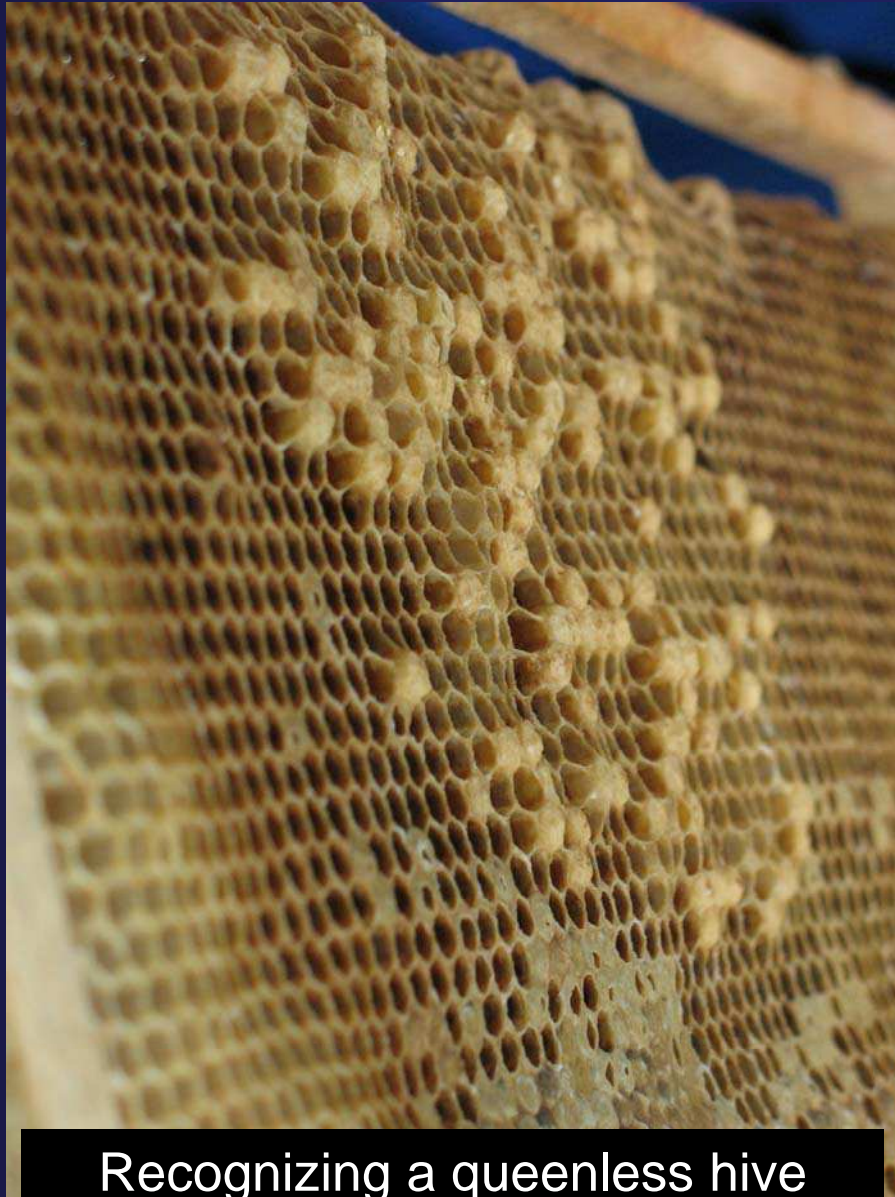
Transferring colony from log hive  
to modern frame hive





# Beekeeping training

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Recognizing a queenless hive



Feeding hives sugar syrup



# Beekeeping training

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- After 5 days, all trainees had management skills required to begin their beekeeping.
- Each trainee took home two hives with bees.
- Trainees enjoyed the hands-on learning technique.
- “I have never extracted honey before, but I know I can do it because I did it today!”
- Everyone had more fun!

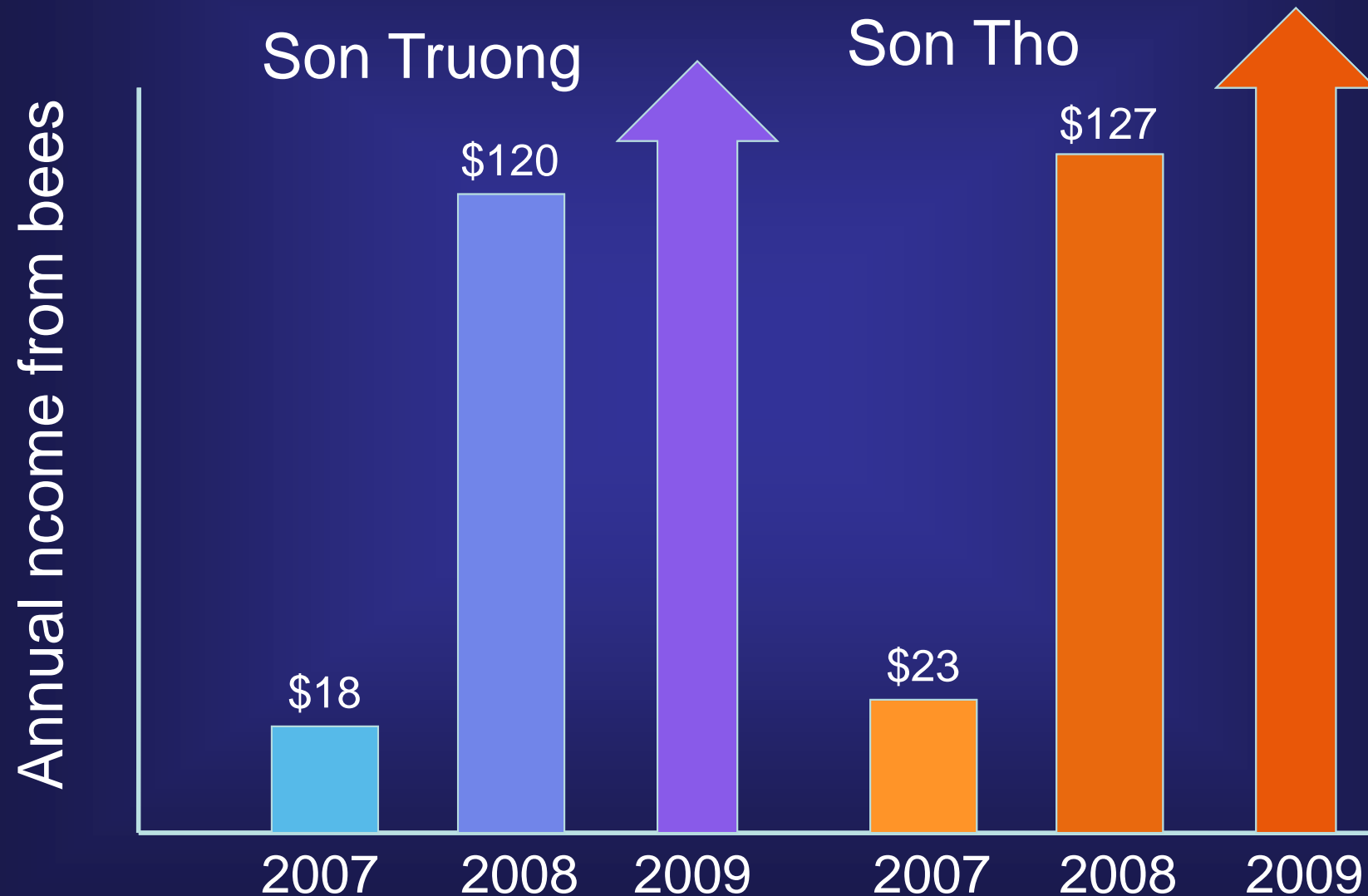






## Income from *Apis cerana* Beekeeping

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## Big shift for trainers and trainees: lectures replaced by experiential learning

