

# Beekeeping Training Using Participatory Methodologies in Vietnam



# Beekeeping in Vietnam

---

- “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

---



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

---

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

---

- 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

---



# Beekeeping training



Learning about hive equipment



Compare traditional & modern hives

# Beekeeping training



# Beekeeping training

---



Building bee hives



Fitting wax foundation in frames

# Beekeeping training



Making a simple queen cage



Extracting honey

# Beekeeping training

---

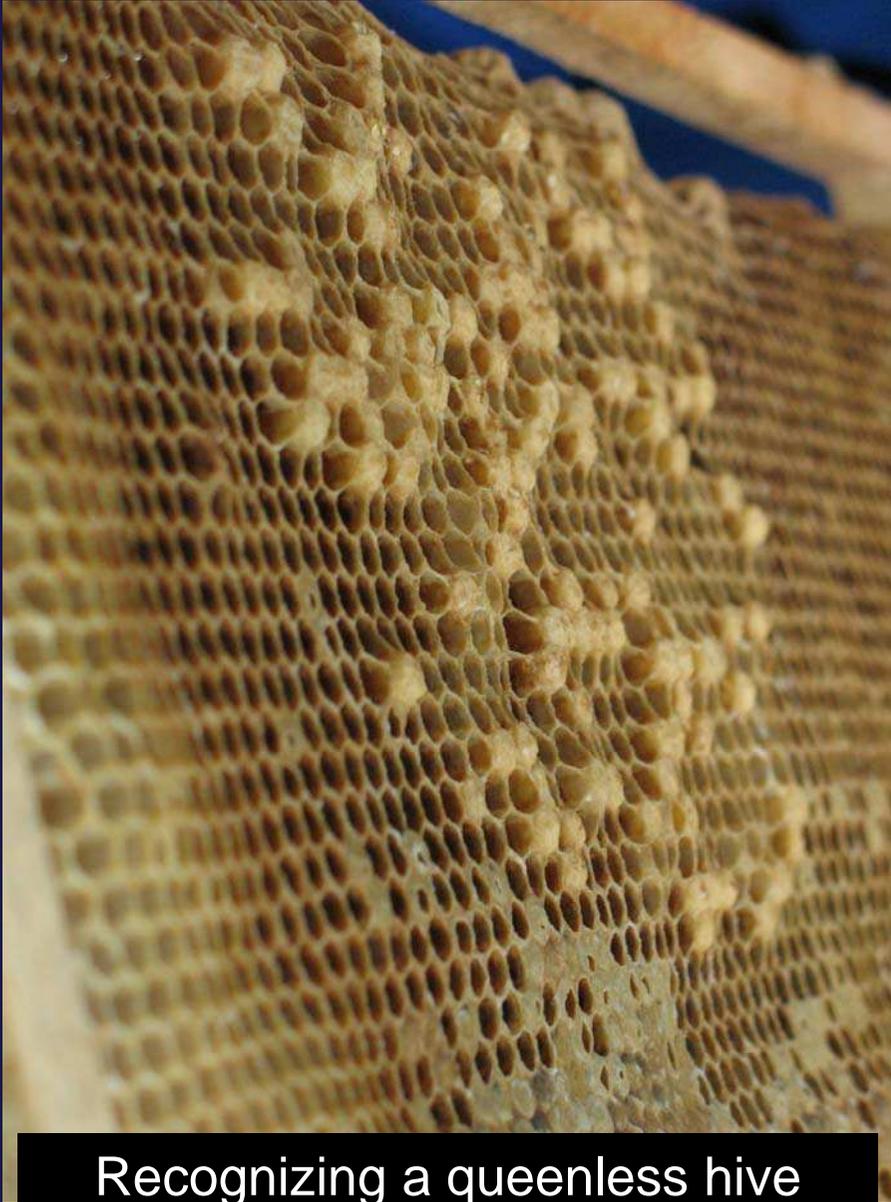


Transferring colony from log hive  
to modern frame hive



# Beekeeping training

---



Recognizing a queenless hive



Feeding hives sugar syrup

# Beekeeping training

---

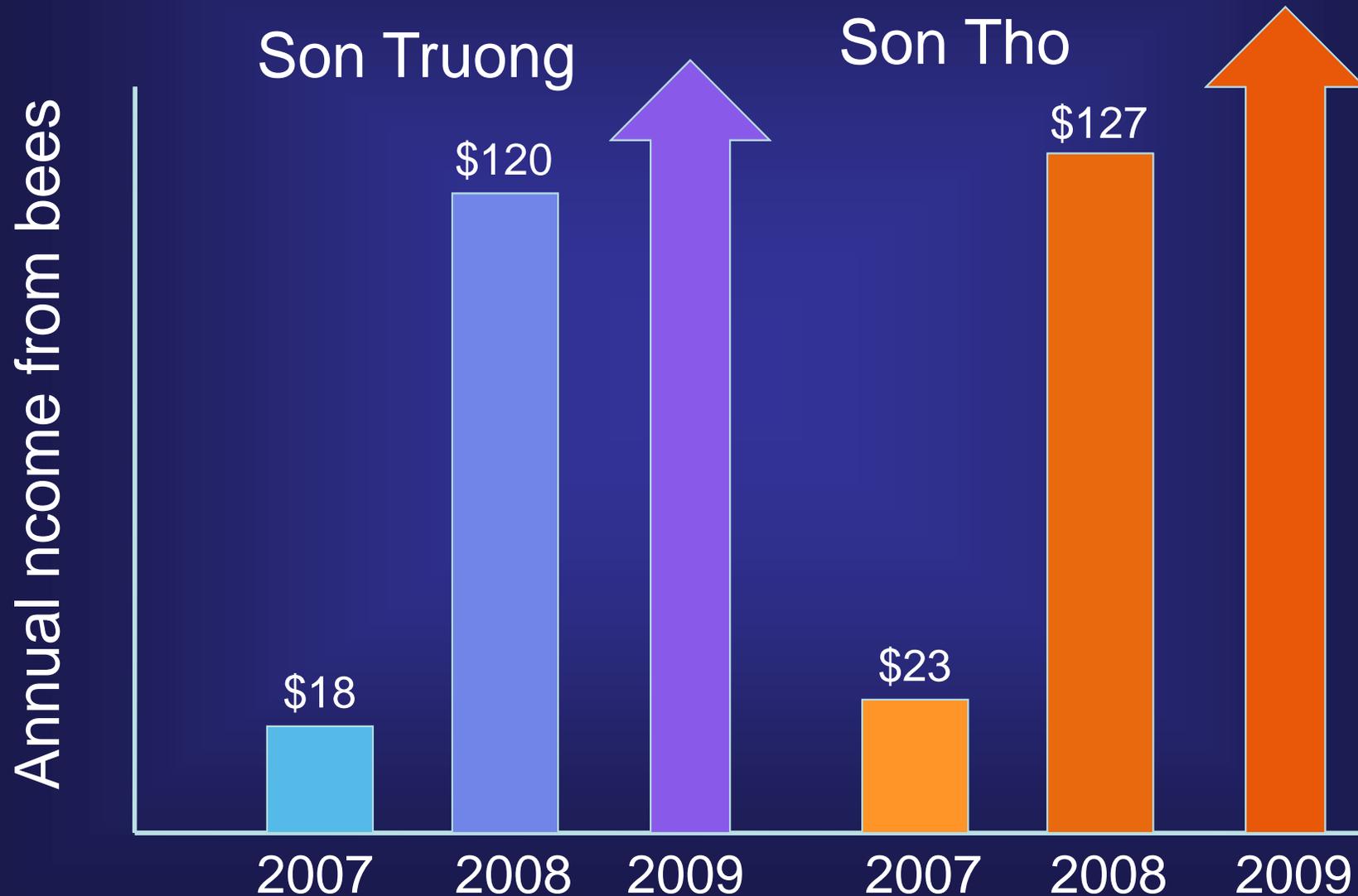


- After 5 days, all trainees had management skills required to begin their beekeeping.
- Each trainee took home two hives with bees.
- Trainees enjoyed the hands-on learning technique.
- “I have never extracted honey before, but I know I can do it because I did it today!”
- Everyone had more fun!



# Income from *Apis cerana* Beekeeping

---



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

