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ORGANIC BEEKEEPING IN MEXICO: A HUGE POTENTIAL FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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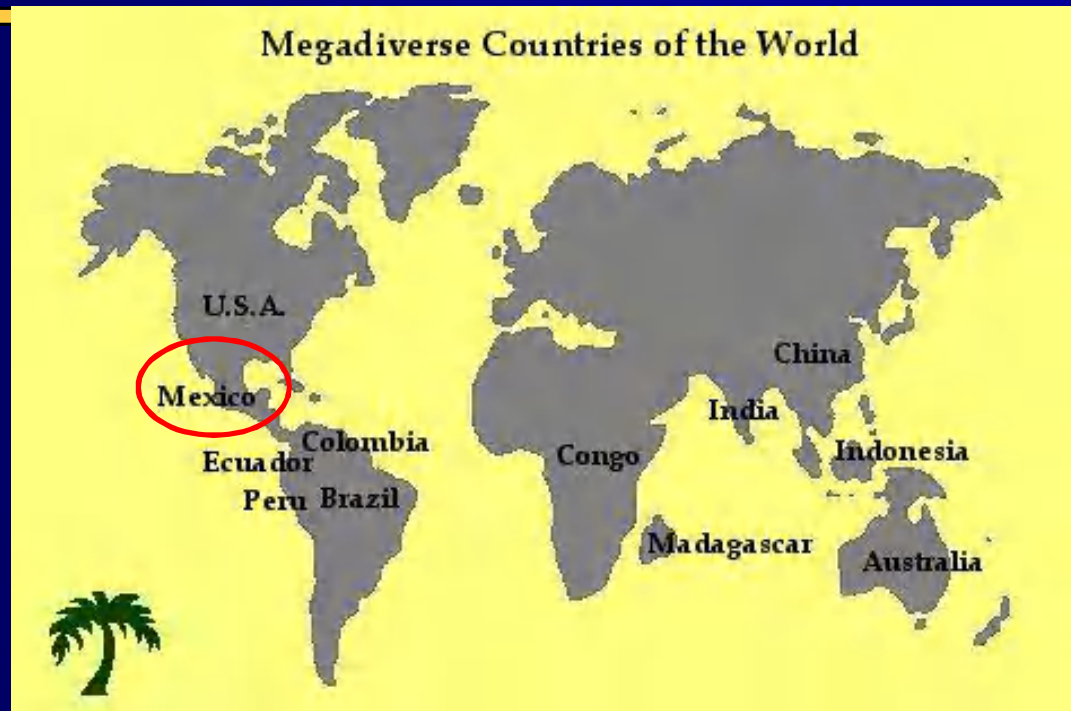
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Introduction

Mexico is one of the
mega-diverse countries
It has around 26,000 plant
species



Offering excellent preconditions for
organic honey production

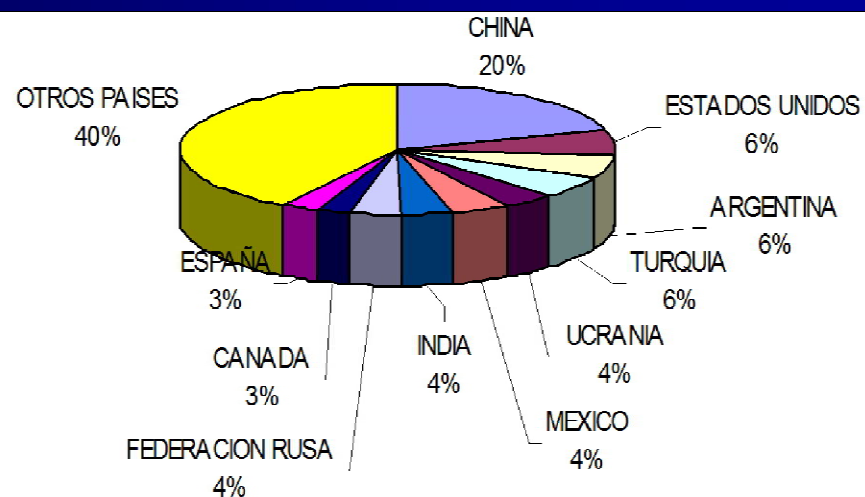


...Introduction

The pre-hispanic Maya cultures produced honey from the native stingless bee (meliponines) before the Spanish introduced European honey bee (*Apis mellifera* L)



Mexico is the 6th Honey producer in the world.

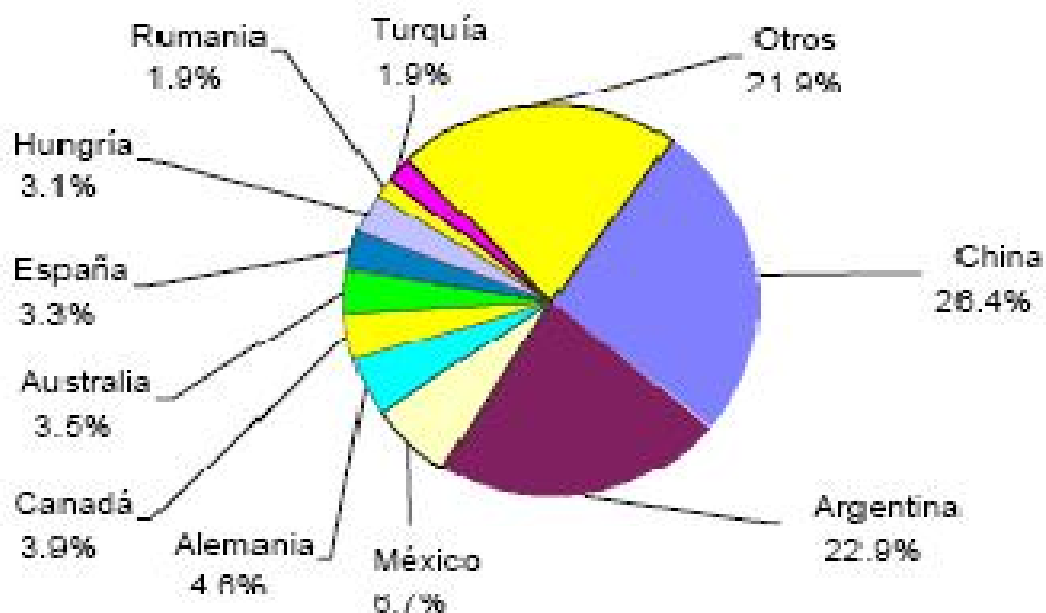


Main honey producers countries (2004)

Mexico is the 3rd Honey exporter in the world.

Main honey exporters countries (1998)

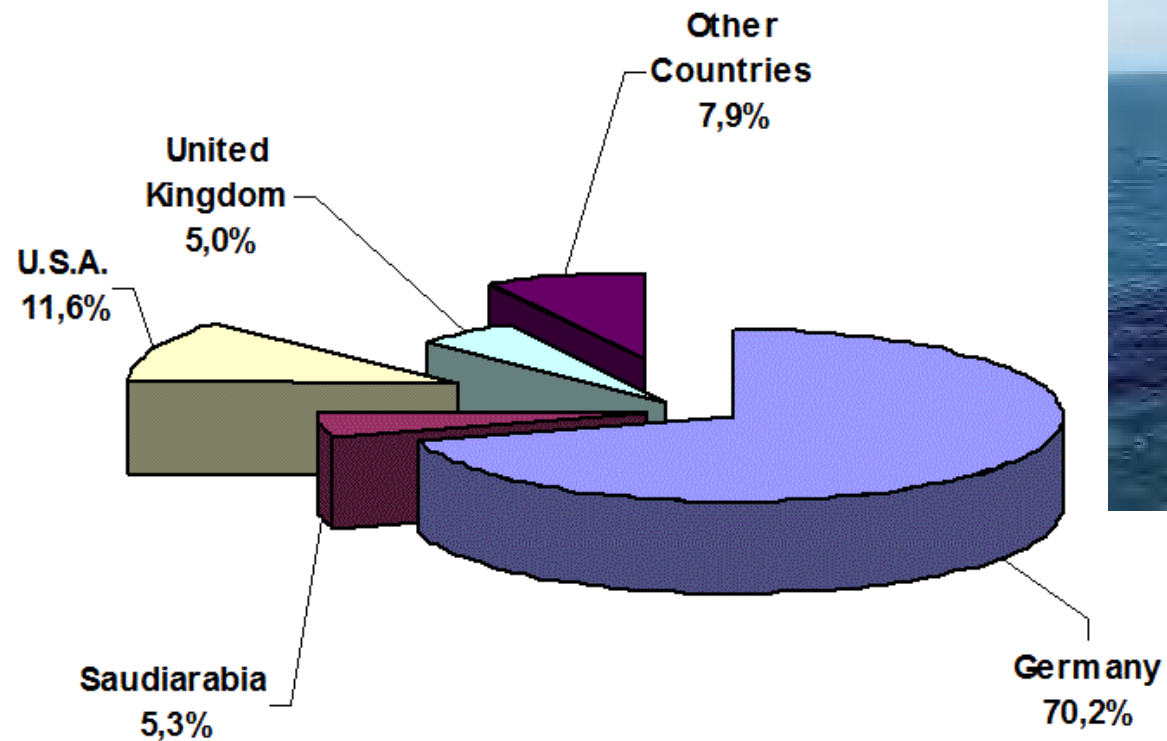
Principales países exportadores de miel en 1998



Fuente: FAOSTAT (FAO Statistical Database).

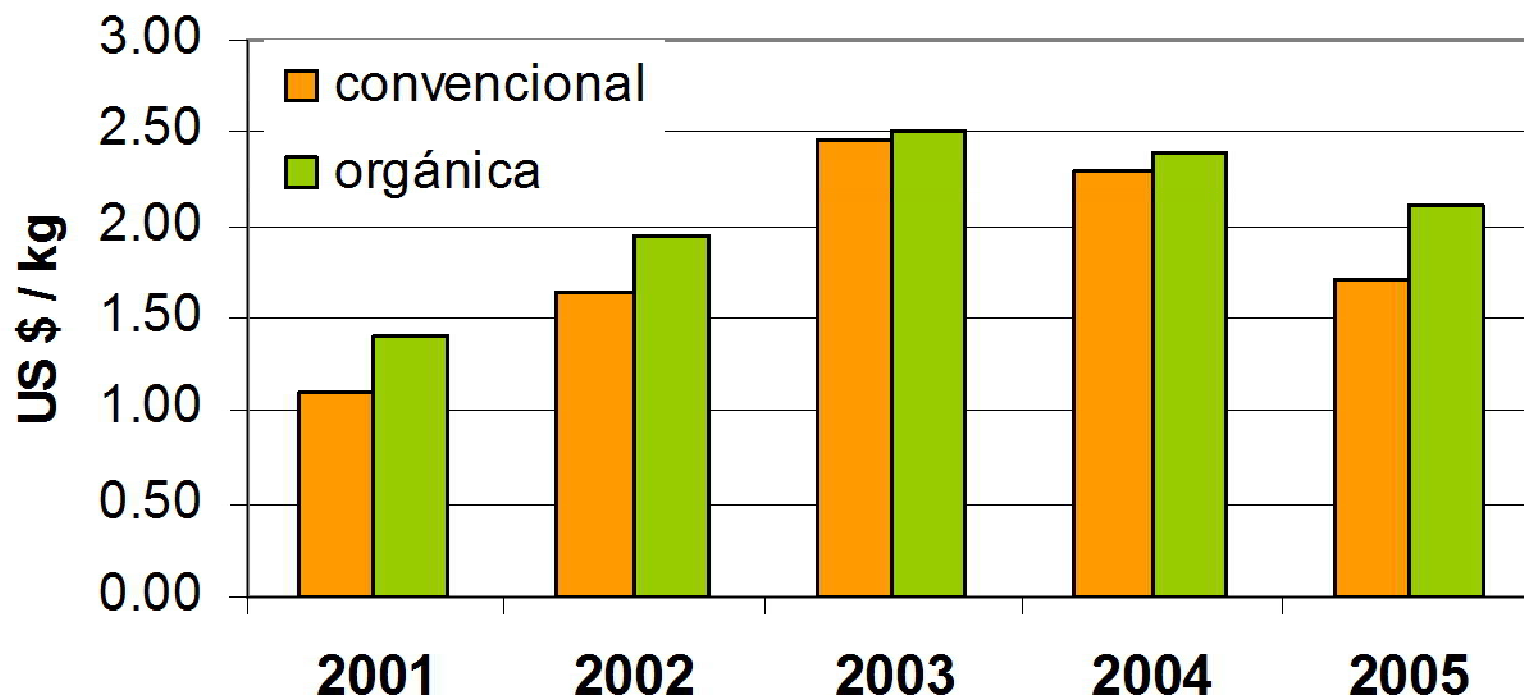


Destination of Mexican honey export





The production of organic certified honey is of approximately 1,150 tons, equating to about 5%



fuentes: W. Göbel/ IMO, U. Bröker



Organic honey is mainly produced in the southern states. In the cooperatives of southern Mexico



The first cooperatives were certified in the 90's in Oaxaca and Guerrero states

Location of organic honey production



Fuente: PNPCAA / SAGAR



In 2010 more than 448 organic beekeepers are managing more than 46,318 organic hives

This beekeepers own from 20 to 100 hives, among other productive activities.





Organic honey is produced during the dry season from October till May, in tropical and subtropical climates





Generally polyfloral honey
is harvested from tropical
forests and shade grown
coffee plantations

An alternative for Coffee Growers



The documentation of the beekeepers activities, as well as the accounting of the honey and wax can present some difficulties at the beginning; particularly because many of the indigenous beekeepers are illiterate.



Africanized bees are less affected by Varroa, helping to convert beekeeping to organic and become less dependent to treatments



however the high Mexican deforestation rate, the intensification of agriculture, pests, antibiotics, and the genetic modified organisms will bring some risks





Small scale agriculture and the low use of pesticides, especially in the southern states of Mexico with large indigenous cultures, are good conditions for organic beekeeping.





Conclusions

Mexico has the potential to increase organic honey production considerably so that many cooperatives of small farmers may benefit by including organic beekeeping in their production.

High diversity of flowers

Many states of Mexico have low industrialization and small scale agriculture with low use of pesticides

The rules of organic beekeeping are generally common sense, typical extensive Management that usually occurs in southern Mexico and Central America.

Distribución geográfica del inventario apícola en México.



Fuente: SACAR.



Second World Conference on Organic Beekeeping

San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico
March 19-25, 2012





For your attention, thanks a lot



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En apicultura, el potencial de producción de los países Europeos es y permanecerá bajo (3 km. de radio...), aunque son los principales consumidores.

