



BIGM Enhancing local skills, knowledge and traditions by visiting Bee Keeping farm in KSD



Building Inclusive Green Municipalities Project (BIGM) facilitated a Knowledge Sharing between two municipalities benefiting on BIGM on the 12 November 2020 in Mthatha. BIGM is a project funded by Government of Canada. Ngqushwa visited King Sabata Dalinyebo for capacity building and mentoring of Bee keeping coops from Nqqushwa Local Municipality. BIGM has gathered together Bee farmers with experts in the related fields led by Cllr N.R. Gcingca, MMC for Rural Economic Development and

Cllr Z. Nduneni, Portfolio Head: Community Services Department in Ngqushwa and input by Mr Simphiwe Nweba, Director from Amathole District. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis is significant to the implementation of international programmes and partnerships, and we can only imagine the impact on our community, women, youth, people with disabilities and business leaders. SALGA is working with FCM to actively monitor and implement the project.



Subsequently, SALGA and Global Affairs Canada meet the Bee farmers in August 2019 during the monitoring of the project prior the Project Steering Committee meeting. Ngqushwa received a funding of R 5 million through MDA in partnership with Harmony Gold and Amathole District. According to BIGM Coordinators Ms Johanna Ngwanduli and Ms Sinovuyo Shoco, Agricultural Practitioner, Ngqushwa Bee farming started in 2003 at Qwashini Location Ward 3, the department of Rural Development and Land reform has also helped Bee farmers to improve productivity of this farming activity through the provision of production inputs and technical advice.

Ngqushwa Bee farmers visited Nzuzo Farming Pride Primary Co-Op LTD whereby “father of the Bees”, Mr Simthembile Nzuzo shared how they became bee keepers. ‘Father of the Bees’ placed his first hive in his parents’ house as they had lots of bees in summer and was able to harvest up to 10 kilos of honey which he used as food.

He further emphasized that he is hoping that through BIGM, enough information is given to help support service providers to consider new income-generating opportunities and how these might enable small-scale farmers to take action. Both alluded that bees and their products are not only well known and have wide

consumer preference, but provide sustainable livelihoods to many small-scale farmers and other rural and non-rural people. Bees offer a large potential with minimal investments. As an agricultural enterprise beekeeping does not require land ownership or rental, it can be started with minimum equipment and tools that can be sourced locally and in many instances skills and knowledge required for such an enterprise are found within local traditions.

Honey, like other bee products, has a good energetic, tasty and nutritional value and contributes to the overall health of the family. Mr Nzuzo indicated that Beekeeping can also create social benefits for example when small-scale farmers join together to form an association, either formal or informal. This collaborative work, which fits in very well with beekeeping, especially during honey harvest time, can create scope for working together within a community and the people involved can see and experience the advantages and benefits of collaboration and social harmony.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Honey is a useful source of high-carbohydrate food, and commonly contains a rich diversity of minerals, vitamins and others, adding nutritional variety to human diets

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