



APIMONDIA

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

www.apimondia.org

NEWSLETTER 13

January 2021



Honeybees in winter in the North



Honeybees in summer in the South

Apimondia is for them all

(Photos: Asger Søgaard Jørgensen)

New Year's message from the President

Happy New Year to all of you! Since we closed the 46th Apimondia Congress in Montreal the world has certainly changed. I hope that each of you are safe and healthy and if you have been touched by Covid-19 that life is improving for you. Spring will come in the Northern Hemisphere and if you are in the Southern Hemisphere then you are enjoying being outside with your bees. I find that being outside with my bees is a great way to relieve stress and escape from the news cycle. May your bees be healthy and make honey in the coming year!

Together with our friends in Ufa, Russia we made the decision to postpone the 47th Apimondia Congress until the fall of 2022. Watch for the exact dates and make plans to attend. This coming fall we plan to make a "virtual" visit to Ufa to see the city, learn about forest beekeeping and see the preparations for the 47th Congress in 2022. More details in the near future on the Ufa Congress. The 48th Apimondia Congress will be as scheduled in Santiago, Chile in 2023. We are working to allow for all future Apimondia Congresses to have some live streaming capabilities. My vision for this is a "best of" Congress where we stream specific talks, and the virtual audience is able to see the ApiExpo and participate virtually to get a flavour of the meeting. The Executive Council of Apimondia continues to meet on a virtual basis to carry out the business of Apimondia. We are using Zoom as a platform for our 3-hour Executive Council meetings that we hold every 2 months. We are saving a great deal in actual dollars and in our carbon footprint. I close by saying please continue to reach out to us if you have ideas for symposia or workshops. We continue to work for beekeepers on a global basis and look forward to seeing many of you in person when life returns to a more normal state.

Bee Well!

Jeff Pettis

New year's message from the General Secretary

At the risk of repeating what our President mentioned on the very difficult and challenging year that we just closed, Apimondia was confronted with the crucial task of adapting some of its working arrangements to take stock of the undeniable changes produced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In order to stay alive and still interact with the members despite the constraints posed by the strict limitations to travel and meetings, the Executive Council took the unprecedented step of staging its annual meeting in a virtual format and actually it went beyond. In fact, while the Council only meets once a year over a weekend, last year a number of virtual meetings were held on Zoom to the tune of almost once every month.

In addition to this, the Apimondia Regional Commissions urged the organisation of other virtual meetings to bring together the members and other stakeholder from the same region and exchange view and experience in this difficult period.

Last December also an Apimondia Open House virtual meeting was held in order to keep in touch with the members and let them know that Apimondia is still alive and kicking and carrying on with its work.

A number of colleagues were also invited to join virtual meetings staged by other organisations to provide Apimondia's inputs and vision on honey fraud, quality standards and the impact of Covid-19 on the honey market.

Further below in this Newsletter you will see the range and number of initiatives undertaken by Apimondia in 2020 and more are to come.

As you are aware at present the offer of meetings can only be in virtual format, but Apimondia is planning to implement hybrid events as soon as possible, including the congress in Russia next year to ensure more beekeepers and stakeholders can attend the event and benefit from it.

Another important initiative that Apimondia put in place is the issuance of two vacancy announcements to fill the positions of scientific communication specialist and media specialist to assist our work to disseminate quality and timely information on Apimondia's activities. The deadline for sending applications is Sunday 24 January 2021.

Apimondia strongly wants to be closer to its members and also provide them with more and more up-to-date information to assist them in their daily work.

Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini

Prepare for the coming events

February 2021 - “Back to basics, back to bees” Conference

On 5th and 6th February 2021 the Apimondia on-line conference “Back to basics, back to bees” will be held.

You can attend the event via our global livestream, with translations provided in 8 languages.

Why “Back”? We have become so focused on beekeeping techniques that we have forgotten about the bees themselves! What are the bees focused on and how would they be living without us? How much should we limit the influence of beekeepers? Join our conference to hear these questions answered by beekeeping experts and join in the discussion.

More info on the conference schedule, speakers and registration can be found here:

<https://beeconf.com/back-to-basics-back-to-bees/>

Apimondia contributes to the greening of the planet by launching a campaign with a target of planting 10 trees for each beekeeper!

As biodiversity loss is increasing and green areas of the planet are decreasing, we all should take action. Climate change has a big effect on our lives and beekeeping. The least we can do is to challenge ourselves and our members to go green! Please stay tuned! Soon we will post more details on “APIMONDIA goes GREEN!”

Next virtual Apimondia "Open House"

Based on the outcome of the previous Apimondia Open House virtual meeting held last December, we are planning to organise another meeting this coming February or March. As soon as the date is defined, Apimondia will inform all the members and also post the details and programme on the Federation’s website (www.apimondia.org) and through the social media channels.

World Bee Day 20th May 2021

Also this year FAO is organising the celebration of the World Bee Day again in virtual modality due to the restrictions posed by Covid-19.

Apimondia is set to collaborate in building the content and programme of the event and more details will be provided in due course.

We urge you to keep an eye on FAO (www.fao.org) and Apimondia (www.apimondia.org) websites in the coming weeks to learn about the latest developments and details on this important event.

2022 - The 47th Apimondia Congress in Ufa, Russia as well as the Apimondia General Assembly have been postponed to 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to being able again to meet in person with beekeepers and friends from all over the world.

2023 - The 48th Apimondia Congress is foreseen to take place in Santiago, Chile in 2023 as planned.

Update on important activities and achievements in 2020

January 2020 - Apimondia Statement on Honey Fraud

In January 2020, Apimondia published the reviewed version of the Statement on Honey Fraud as the official position of Apimondia regarding honey purity and authenticity, fair standards of production and the best available recommended methods to detect and prevent honey fraud.



This Statement aims to be a trusted source for authorities, traders, retailers, manufacturers, supermarkets, consumers and other stakeholders of the honey trade chain to ensure they stay up-dated with the current concepts and new testing developments regarding honey purity and authenticity. It is also a guide to promote best practices for the prevention of honey fraud and all of its insidious negative side effects on bees, beekeepers, crop pollination and food security.

You can view the Statement at the following link:

https://www.apimondia.com/docs/apimondia_statement_on_honey_fraud_v_2.pdf

Attached is a flyer for a very important book “Food Fraud, a Global Threat with Public Health and Economic Consequences” - Chapter 15: Honey Fraud

February 2020 - International Meliponini Conference and Asian Apicultural Association (AAA) Philippines Symposium on Pollinator Conservation

The International Meliponini Conference and Asian Apicultural Association (AAA) Philippines Symposium on Pollinator Conservation provided a forum for bee researchers, policy makers, farmers, students and beekeepers from around the world to discuss topics related to bees and pollination, and share their beekeeping practices and experiences.

Held at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) on 25-28 February 2020, the event was jointly organised by the UPLB through its Bee Programme, the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research and the AAA Philippines. The participants were from Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Australia, United States of America, Italy, Cambodia, Germany, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, Venezuela and Vietnam. The scientific session was complemented with a workshop on stingless bees, a round table discussion, a Grand Honey Festival and Api-Expo.

The resolutions of the conference were crafted as follows: forging collaboration on pollination research, inclusion of the use of isotope techniques in testing for honey adulteration and establishing standards for stingless bee honey. Apimondia was represented by Mr. Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini who gave a talk on the World Bee Day and the importance of pollinators in the ecosystem.



The participants enjoyed the field tour that vent to an organic farm - Photo: (c) Marlene C. Francia 2020

March 2020 - Letter of the Apimondia President on Covid-19

Dr. Jeff Pettis, President of Apimondia, sent a message to all beekeepers around the world for support and encouragement during the difficult times of the first wave of Covid-19.

You can view the letter at this link: https://www.apimondia.com/docs/letter_jeff_pettis_1.pdf

March 2020 - Pesticide residues in agricultural imports must not compromise public health and the European Green Deal



Commissioner Stella Kyriakides
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Forty-six International and European organisations combined their voices and wrote a letter addressed to Ms. Stella Kyriakides, European Commission, with the title “Pesticide residues in agricultural imports must not compromise public health and the European Green Deal”.

The letter was an attempt to highlight that a possible consideration by the European Commission to accept residues of certain

pesticides that are banned for use in the EU on imported products, would defeat the European Green Deal and the Commission’s stated ambition to reduce the EU’s dependency on pesticides. Moreover, failure of addressing effectively this issue could bring EU farmers to a state of an unfair competition from abroad.

The coalition urged the Commission to fully implement the necessary legal provisions, without any exceptions.

To read the letter, click on the following link:

https://www.apimondia.com/docs/letter_commissioner_kyriakides.pdf

20th May 2020 - World Bee Day Celebrations

World Bee Day 2020 was celebrated in a completely different way this year, as Covid-19 restrictions in most of the countries did not allow the usual celebrations and the gathering of people. Apimondia organised different events for this important day:

a. Several Apimondia Executive Council members delivered individual videos with a particular message addressing the focus of their respective Commissions. A compilation video was also created with short messages. All video messages can be viewed on the Apimondia You Tube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHjmK-QrJr2utgtaY3WMzLg>

b. Apimondia Executive Council members also participated in the online event “Bee Engaged” organised by FAO.

<http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/5270/icode/>



c. the comprehensive video “To all unsung heros... Thank you” was developed by FAO in a collaboration with Apimondia, CAAS (China) and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia:

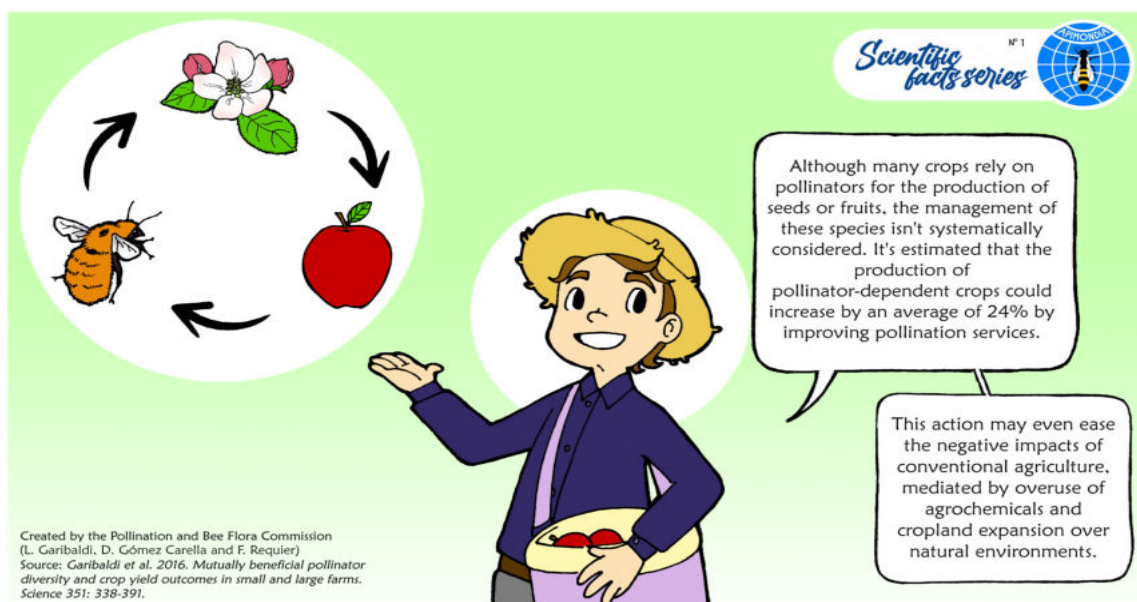
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jn8H-qeIRqU&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=FoodandAgricultureOrganizationoftheUnitedNations

July 2020 - Evaluation of the direct economic impact of decreasing prices of honey on the main honey export countries of the Americas

A comprehensive and detailed report was prepared by the Apimondia Regional Commission for the Americas and the Apimondia Scientific Commission on Beekeeping Economy that was published on the Apimondia’s website:

https://www.apimondia.com/docs/commissions/decreasing_prices_honey_americas.pdf

July-August 2020 - The first of the Scientific Basic Messages, prepared by the Scientific Commission on Pollination and Bee Flora, was published on the Apimondia’s website.



August 2020 - Apimondia Press release “Is Europe lowering the standards of Protection Goals for Risk Assessment of Pesticides to bees?”



A press release was published by Apimondia in line with the opinion of other world organisations on the protection goals and the standards during risk assessment of pesticides for bees, ought to be taken by the European Commission.

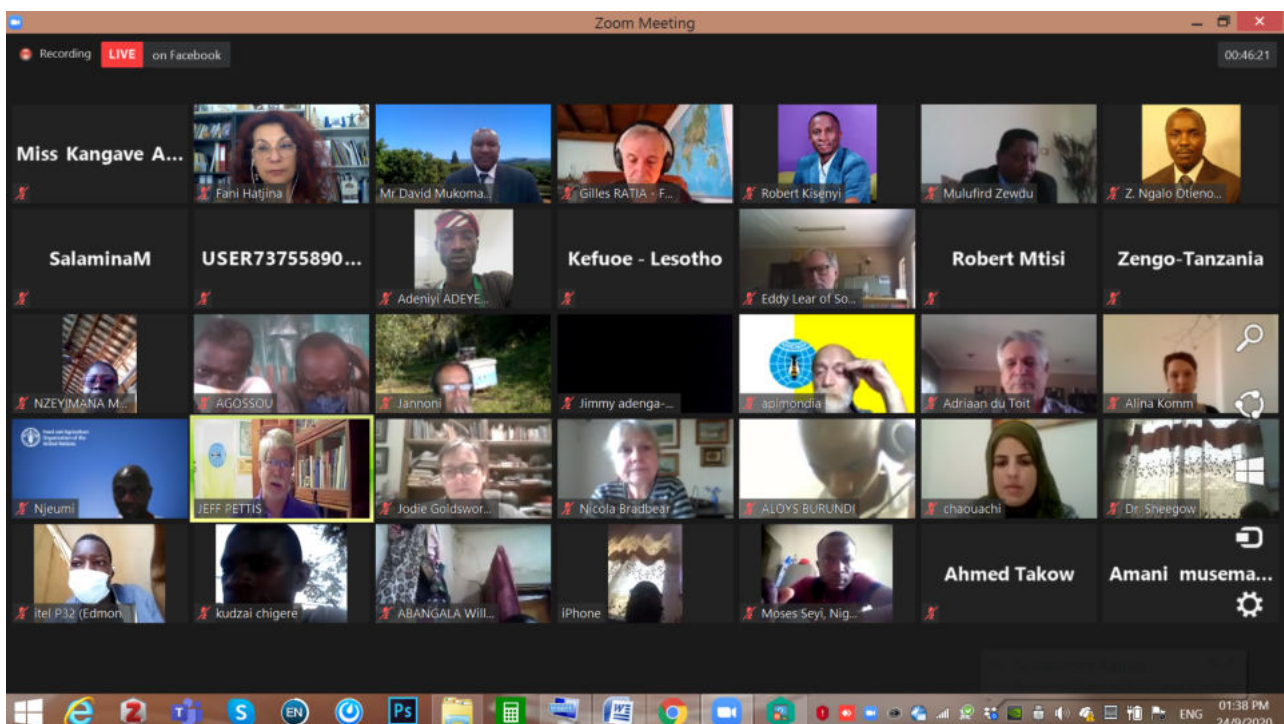
Among others, Apimondia stated: *It has been almost 8 years of continuous efforts to establish the protection goals for risk assessment and the levels to be accepted by the European Parliament and member states. EFSA's BGD of 2013 is the only*

comprehensive and up-to-date manual that uses a scientific method to describes how to assess the impact of pesticides on all pollinators. This document was never adopted by the member states, unfortunately, and never implemented due to high pressure from the Pharmaceutical Industry. However, we welcomed the European Parliament's rejection of the European Commission's draft proposal to 'compromise' to lower protection goals (only for acute toxicity and only for honey bees) on Wednesday 23rd October 2019. European citizens and beekeepers in Europe and around the world believed that with this decision the European Parliament confirmed the will to achieve higher levels of protection standards for bees, other pollinators and environment.

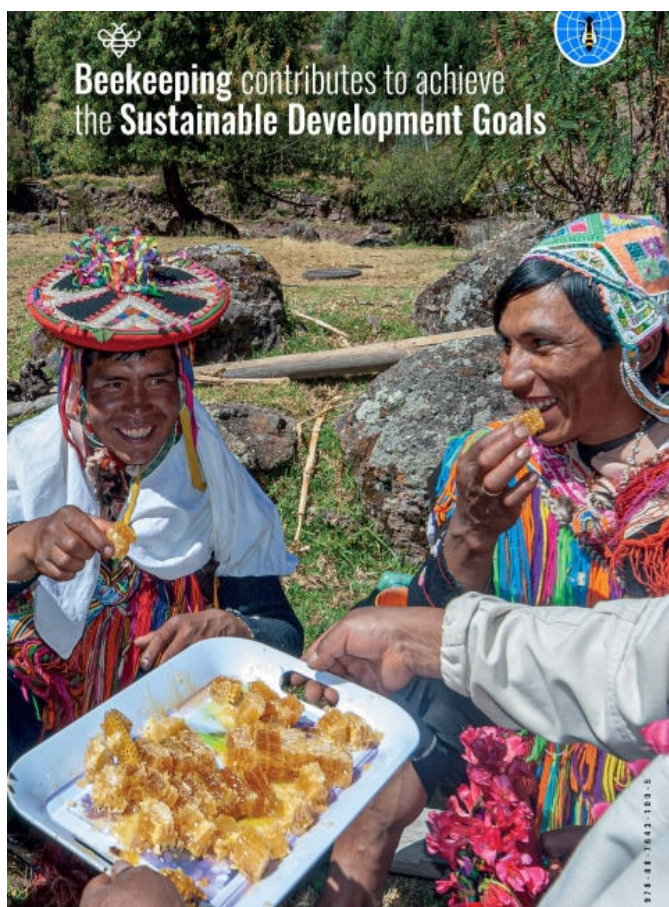
Please view the letter at the following link:

https://www.apimondia.com/docs/commissions/europe_lowering_standards_protection_bees.pdf

September 2020 - The Africa Regional Commission virtual meeting



October 2020 - Booklet “Beekeeping contributes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”



This publication stems from the realisation that beekeeping holds an incredibly valuable potential in development work.

At present a commonly shared and recognised benchmark for the implementation and harmonised application of measures that assist interventions for development programmes is enshrined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These goals have been projected to unfold their beneficial effects over the 2015 - 2030 timespan so there is still a decade to support and see their implementation and further impact.

For those operating in the apicultural sector, the contribution of beekeeping to development activities is quite evident, but in other contexts this may not emerge just as clearly.

To this end, Apimondia decided to produce a concise reference publication to highlight and contextualise how beekeeping and its many

declinations can contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The booklet can be downloaded from this link:

https://www.apimondia.com/docs/beekeeping_contributes_sdg_high_resolution.pdf

October 2020 - Educational beekeeping conference “Honey Fraud Industry” 8 November 2020. More details can be found here:

https://www.apimondia.com/docs/two_educational_beekeeping_conferences.pdf

October 2020 - The 2nd of the Scientific Basic Messages, prepared by the Scientific Commission on Pollination and Bee Flora, was published on the FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/772067163158029/photos/a.772077149823697/1289919664706107/>



November 2020 - The Americas Regional Commission virtual meeting



December 2020 - Virtual “Open House”

