

Impact of Beekeeping Training on Socio-economic Status of Farmers and Rural Youths in Kullu and Mandi Districts of Himachal Pradesh

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KEYWORDS Assessment. Beekeeping. Training. Perception. Socio-economic Status. Occupation

ABSTRACT The present study was conducted from January 2005 to December 2010 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bajaura (Kullu, Himachal Pradesh) to assess the impact of beekeeping training programmes. Two hundred twenty-five trainees of different age groups having rural as well as urban background were selected from Kullu and Mandi districts. For the investigations of study, the interview schedule was developed to access the impact of training with respect to need base and theoretical as well as practical aspects. The results of study showed that majority of the trainees (94%) were satisfied with the training programmes as these were conducted according to their needs. More than eighty per cent participants rated the training as excellent whereas 10.8% rated it as very good and another 6.7% rated it good. The majority of the trainees (85.4%) were satisfied with practical part of training whereas 55.8% of the respondents showed their keenness for theoretical approach of trainings. It was also observed that most of the respondents (34.2%) benefitted in term of enhanced self-confidence, followed by more employment opportunities near the home (25.2%), increased income (21.8%) and acquiring new skills (10.2%). The number of beneficiaries at commercial level was very less (8.6 %). Twenty- eight per cent of the respondents showed their eagerness to go for beekeeping for pollination purpose, whereas only twenty per cent evinced their eagerness for honey production as the area was dominated by horticultural crops like apple. All of them strongly agreed that beekeeping had a significant role in increasing the economic and social status of rural communities.