

Micro-beekeeping to support the invigorative economy and create ecological services in Mlabri community

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ABSTRACT:

The model of micro-beekeeping with native bees is developed for a social enterprise implemented for people in poverty in remote areas. Micro-beekeeping produces raw and fresh honey with unique and unrivalled taste including supreme quality which promotes the environmental friendliness and economy amongst stakeholders. This model has empowered the Mlabri, a nomadic tribe of hunting-gathering community in the forest, who has settled down in Nan Province under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sirindhornin Phuwapattana Development Center, Boklur District, Nan Province, Thailand. This study focuses on the optimization of three species of native Thai bees by 5 major aims: 1) to install eco-friendly gathering process of *Apis dorsata* honey, 2) to standardize the hygienic of the equipment and honey postharvest process, 3) to determine physicochemical property and fingerprint signature profiles of honey production, 4) to install *Apis cerana* and stingless bee beekeeping for the additional sources of the Mlabri's income and 5) to design and develop packaging, branding and contribute storytelling of their products. This micro-beekeeping enterprise rewards the commercial market with finger-printed honey which helps increase self-sufficiency of Mlabri community and sustains surrounding ecosystem.