



SABIO

South African Bee Industry Organisation

PO Box 14840

Hatfield

0028

www.sabio.org.za

SA BEE INDUSTRY

Implementation of NAMC Recommendations

Preamble by SABIO Chairman, John Moodie

BACKGROUND

A Section 7 Committee investigation into the SA Bee Industry was done during 2007–2008. The purpose was to establish the functioning of the Industry and its role in the Agricultural environment in the Country. It was commissioned by the NAMC using selected different role-players from SABIO, ARC, Retailers, Commercial Beekeepers, Associations and Bottlers. The investigation led to a report with recommendations for the Industry and this was formally accepted by the Minister of Agriculture in April 2010.

At the outset I need to say that many who may be opposed to some of the recommendations listed in the NAMC Report, may actually be objecting for exactly the same reasons that I initially asked for a Section 7 analysis of the industry. The motivation for this report was that there were areas in our industry that needed revision. The report was compiled by a wide range of representatives in the industry and has resulted in a thorough investigation of the strengths and weaknesses we face. SABIO's intention is to revise the Industry in such a way that it is sustainable and able to serve its members more efficiently than it has been able to do in the past. The outbreak of AFB and the need for a better funding base are all reasons for a revision of the Beekeeping Industry.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS & SCHEDULE

The target is that SABIO, as the current mouthpiece of the Industry, must present the NAMC with a proposal on the implementation of the various recommendations on 11 August 2001. The process entails proper discussions between all role-players on the options and preferred selections. We intend this through at least two meetings, as well as discussions on chat groups and the SABIO website.

Facilitators were appointed recently to help in this implementation of the recommendations. The role of a facilitator is defined as helping a group of people to understand and achieve their common objectives without necessarily taking a particular position in the discussion. Clearly all facilitators have ideas they will share based on their own experience as well as the NAMC Report, but the meetings planned and sharing of ideas are to encourage participation so that we end up with an organization that can serve its members in a sustainable manner. We are bound to feel strongly about certain issues and will sometimes have to agree to disagree, but please see the broader picture and consider the poor future of our Industry should we fail to reach a degree of consensus which allows us to move forward and establish a really prosperous Bee Industry in SA.

Each facilitator was tasked to prepare an initial presentation on his/her topic and to present it to the SABIO board and other facilitators at a meeting in Pretoria on 24 June 2010 to kick off the process. These are included herewith.

We seriously request all role-players to comment freely on them and make alternative suggestions where necessary --- there is only just more than a month available to do so. Please use any of the communication vehicles you choose.

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS PRESENTED BY FACILITATORS

Structure

The main argument here is that there are many types of structures that can be graphically presented. The importance of structure is that it serves the organization and is not created as an artificial illustration of how we all imagine things should be. As far as the Bee Industry is concerned we need to decide whether beekeepers are a sub-sector in a greater industry and how we will be able to meet the needs of the greater industry. In addition the role of government needs to be carefully considered.

Funding

The sustainability of any organization depends on its source of funding and although relying on voluntary contributions in the past from members, it is time now to create a professional efficient organization that can act to serve its members and statutorily pay for growth and research. Funding and structure need to be considered together as those who contribute need to feel that their interests are being served. The levy should not be unfair to any sector of the Industry and should also not impair the business of its members.

Legislation

This category unites most of the other areas of interest. The revision of the present legislation into the equivalent of an Apicultural Act, incorporating all current legislation into one piece of legislation is a complex process. All will need to contribute to the process, as well as the substance, of the proposed legislation.

Trade

If the Industry is to grow and prosper we need to address the realities of trade and be represented on the Trade Forum. The export market should provide growth incentives for the Industry and current trends in the global and local market need to be assessed and analyzed so that producers are kept up to date with developments.

Food Safety

Retailers and consumers are becoming particular about issues of food safety. Traceability and various food safety regulations are becoming an ever-present reality in the food industry. We need to co-operate with existing accreditation schemes but also be in a position to recommend what is of crucial importance to the production of safe and healthy honey.

Forage

The production of honey and availability of proper pollination units depend on the availability of forage for our honeybees. The pressures of development on the environment make this an ever-increasing priority issue. The CARA Act, the protection of eucalypts and the assessment of forage potential is essential if we are to meet these demands. We cannot ignore this crucial aspect of beekeeping in South Africa.

Emerging & Hobbyist Beekeepers

Our industry has always included a number of hobbyist beekeepers and this has led to a degree of conflict in the past. The needs of the smaller and emerging beekeepers may differ from the commercial bee farmers but this seems to be more of an issue of scale rather than degree.

Commercial Beekeepers

These farmers have a vital role to play in the implementation of the recommendations as they totally depend on this industry for their livelihood. As a result they need to see tangible results from contributions they may make towards its running and operation. They however have the most to benefit from any positive outcomes this may mean for members.

Research

Any agricultural pursuit depends on research as a basis for informed decision making. This function was well supported by government in the past and I am sure that if we lobby correctly we would be able to fund research from government, universities and related industries again. The fact that bees are a measure of biodiversity and a natural resource only helps to lobby for research for bee related projects. Funds generated will need to be allocated carefully to cover as wide a range of research projects as possible so that no one particular sector is given precedent.

Training

Training is a vital part of any organization, which needs to ensure that it provides training for aspirant participants. This can either be managed, offered as a service provider or through the mentorship of existing projects. If correctly managed it can enhance the organization, ensure its sustainability and provide an avenue for fund raising.

Other areas for facilitation

The areas of manufacturing and control of poisons and api-therapy also need to be considered as separate issues.

The full reports on these issues from facilitators are listed below.

FURTHER INFORMATION

NAMC Report --- a download on the SABIO site www.sabio.org

SA Bee Journal Vol 82 No 1 & 2 2010

Survey of Beekeeping in South Africa --- Beatrice Conradie CSSR Working Paper No 221
www.cssr.uct.ac.za

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAMC REPORT

Facilitation

The role of a facilitator is defined as someone who helps a group of people understand their common objectives and assists to achieve them without taking a particular position in the discussion. This is best compared to the role of the midwife who assists with the birth of child. Emphasis needs to be placed upon the process rather than the final substance. Facilitators are not necessarily experts but need to offer advice so that consensus may be reached.

At present the bee industry has already a substantial document to refer to in the NAMC report and our focus needs to be on how to implement the recommendation it contains. It is therefore pertinent that each facilitator present gives a short review of his area under discussion and then opens it up for comment so that stakeholders are able to debate the issues and SABIO can present a plan for implementing the recommendations in a transparent manner. Documents to refer to are the report itself, the survey of the industry by Dr Conradie, the bee journal and the printed recommendations available. Also all presentation made by the facilitators are on our web page and this will give all interested parties an idea of the processes envisaged and the substance involved has to be finalised.

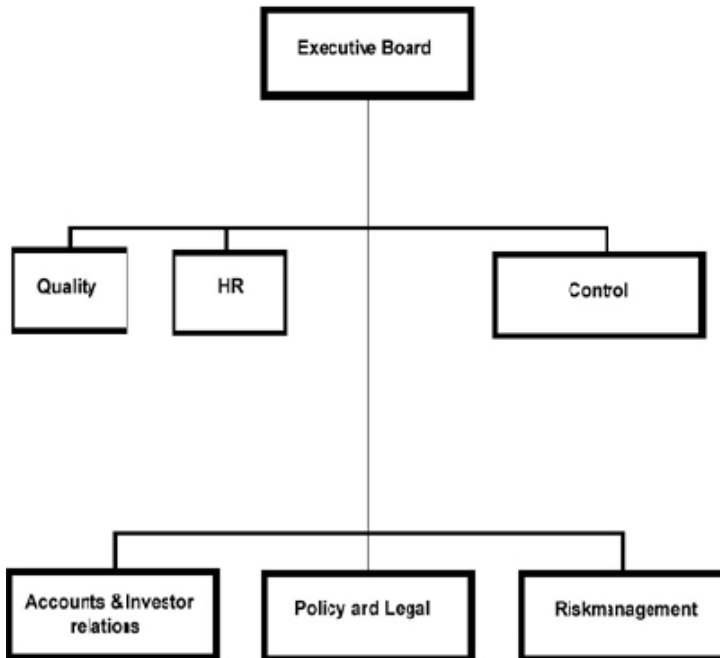
I trust that meetings will open with the facilitators outlining their ideas in short presentations followed by work shops in smaller groups before final feedback is given and consensus reached.

Structure

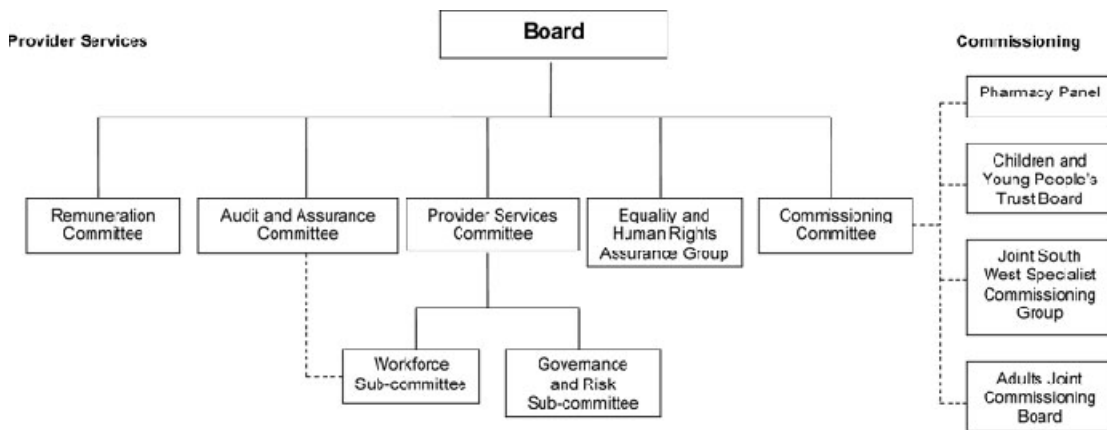
Structure refers to identifiable patterns or arrangements in an organization, which determine the actions of the individuals. They, of course, create the pattern or structure so it is not a fixed rigid framework imposed upon the organization, but one, which should be determined, by the roles and functions of the role-players.

There are various models to identify different structures.

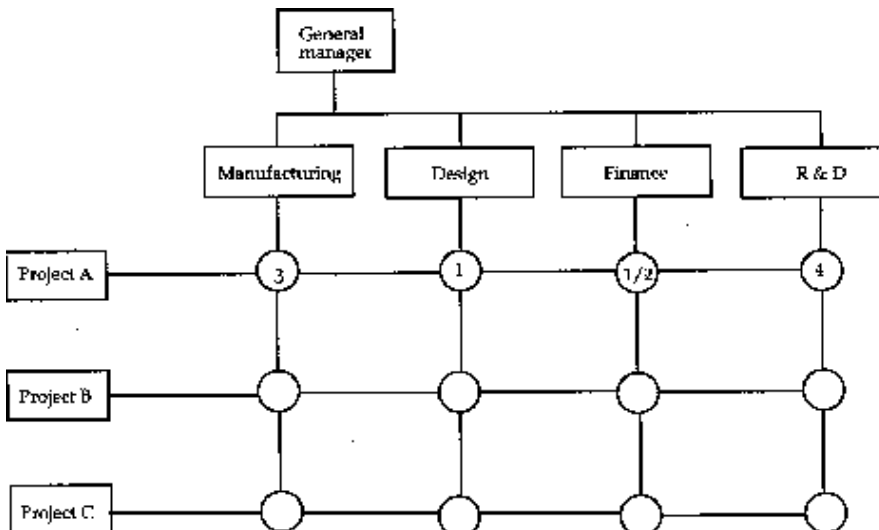
Hierarchy : these are pyramids shapes – top - down leadership patterns which often rely on the “Peter Proud principle” – promoted to your level of incompetence!



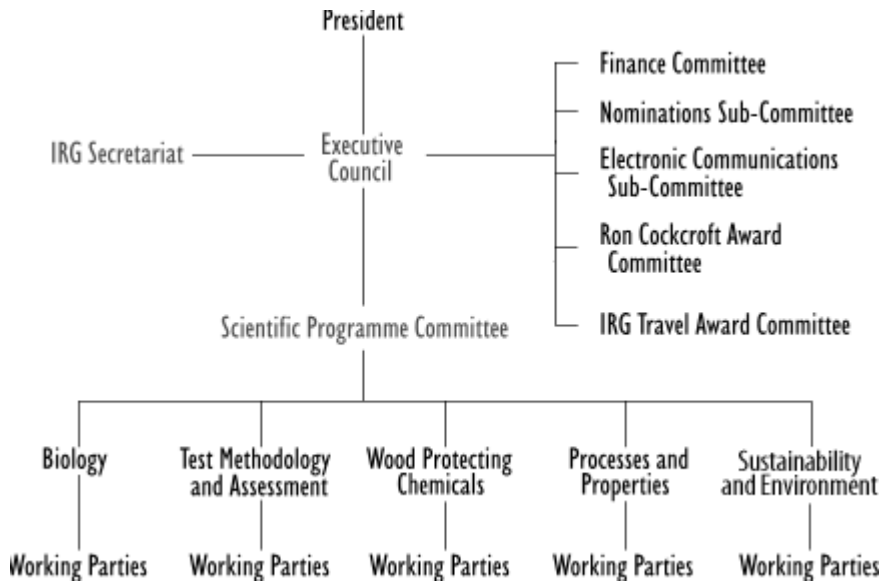
Committees : Groups making decision by voting feeding information to a board.



Matrix Structure : One functional area operating with and executive project area.



Ecologies : These structures are constantly evolving and changing as they function.



These examples are not to show an ideal structure for our industry but to indicate that structure should evolve from functions and roles so that the needs of stakeholders are met as far as possible and that the most suitable structure is in place for the particular organisation.

Structures can be defined by product, by area, by work team or by leadership patterns. The idea of a structure is to maintain control but to lead, inspire and direct at the same time.

Our industry is not the only bee industry under review. The quote below is from the Australian Honey Board and demonstrates a similar set of objectives – it was also incidently tabled in 2008

The report was tabled in Canberra in June, and addresses the challenges facing the honey bee crop pollination and related industries in Australia.

"I am asking the State Minister to work with me to help implement the recommendations in the report."

Dick Adams said that the report contained 25 recommendations, including:

Providing funding and organizational resources to establish and run Pollination Australia;

- Establishing guidelines for beekeepers access to public lands, including national parks;*
- Providing incentives for the planting and conservation of melliferous flora;*
- Maintaining and enhancing the National Sentinel Hive Program;*
- Fast tracking the pre-registration of pesticides to combat the Varroa incursion;*
- Establishing and funding a national endemic pest and disease control program;*
- A request that the ACCC investigate pricing practices;*
- Improve product standards for imported honey; and*

- *Better product labeling.*

We rely on the honey bee industry, not only in Tasmania's world famous honey, but also to pollinate many food crops.

Without honey bees, many of Australia's agricultural industries would not be viable, and the Nation's food security would be at risk.

The issue that demands our attention is that we need to decide whether SABIO is able to represent the whole bee industry as an umbrella organisation or whether we need to create a further body with beekeeping only as a sector of the industry – this I feel would be a retrogressive step but it would make the definition of roles and functions much easier. The real issue is that the structure needs to ensure that those who are contributing to the funding of the industry have an equitable say in how the funds are managed.

John Moodie

INPUT FROM FACILITATOR ON

TRAINING AND TRANSFORMATION

FOR SABIO BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON 24 AND 25 JUNE 2010

The recommendations in the NAMC Report pertaining to this topic are listed below for easy reference.

Since the report was tabled, the Master Mentorship Programme has been instituted by the National Department of Agriculture. This programme is in the process of being taken over by provincial departments of agriculture and is intended to be implemented using CASP (Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme) funding. Regarding beekeeping, nothing has been forthcoming from provincial departments and what little has occurred has been via other departments and actions of individuals who are members of SABIO.

Training/ information and dissemination

1. *The beekeeping industry should develop formal accreditation (NQF standards) for training. Suitable funding should be secured for this purpose.*
2. *The beekeeping industry should ensure that training of beekeepers is coordinated (as much as possible)*

Small farmer development/ unexploited forage usage

3. *The beekeeping industry should develop formal accreditation (NQF standards) for training. Suitable funding should be secured for this purpose.*
4. *The beekeeping industry together with the relevant authorities (including DWAF) should identify areas where beekeeping can be expanded in future (and the number of hives that can be accommodated quantified).*
5. *The beekeeping industry should discuss and if necessary amend legislation affecting non-invasive eucalypts (CARA and its schedules).*
6. *The beekeeping industry should establish closer linkages with the forestry industry pertaining to:*
 - a. *The breeding and planting of bee friendly cultivars,*
 - b. *The mapping of forests by cultivar and thus determining possible bee carrying capacity*
 - c. *The forging of agreements regarding access to forests for beekeeping purposes*
 - d. *Beekeeping in urban areas*
7. *In order to facilitate the development of new entrant farmers the beekeeping industry, in cooperation with the relevant authorities and organisations, should develop methodologies and support structures to ensure that:*
 - o *suitable candidates are identified*
 - o *that accredited training and mentorship are made available*
 - o *that financial support is available*
 - o *that products produced are properly marketed*
 - o *new entrants are absorbed into the Bee Industry organizations, both at national level (SABIO) and at local level (the provincial bee farmer associations).*

SABIO as Service Provider

Before embarking on implementing aspects of the report, the SABIO Board must be clear in its mind whether it sees SABIO as a service provider or not. If so, what services can be provided, and by whom, and does SABIO as an organisation play a direct role as service provider, or merely facilitate the process, or do both, depending on the nature of the service being rendered?

Perhaps at this stage the possible services which SABIO could offer may be considered. Some of the services lie outside of the portfolio of Training and Transformation. Implicit in this discussion is the answer to the question which government will definitely ask. "What is SABIO doing to assist in transformation to ensure that black and coloured people have the opportunity to gain access to the Beekeeping Industry." The survival of SABIO as an organisation is dependent on government viewing it as an ally in the implementation of government policy. This will of course ensure easier access to funding sources.

Possible Services

* **Mentorship**

SABIO could facilitate the provision of mentors, to mentor beekeeping projects. SABIO could enter into contracts with government departments or other organisations and provide suitable mentors to provide mentorship as required. The mentors provided should be SABIO members. This presupposes that SABIO has members in the area prepared to offer the service. The mentor would be paid at a prearranged tariff of fees and SABIO would be paid a percentage for facilitating the service.

* **Training**

SABIO could develop training course material which could be used by others to present courses. SABIO could be paid a fee for the use of the course material. SABIO could also enter into an agreement with AGRISETA to provide assessors to assess courses in beekeeping and be paid a fee for doing this. This would ensure that SABIO plays a role in ensuring that courses are maintained at a sufficiently high standard

* **Registration**

Government may decide to devolve the function of registering beekeepers to SABIO who would be paid a fee to do this. Alternatively should government wish to retain the registration function for themselves, SABIO could through the affiliated Associations, keep and monitor the data base. A fee could be paid for this service.

* **Monitoring**

This would involve monitoring disease outbreaks and could involve the taking of samples. In this case SABIO would be acting as an agent of government. Suitably trained local SABIO members could supply this service for a fee.

* **Advising**

It would be beneficial for the Bee Industry if a situation could develop where SABIO is consulted when beekeeping projects are being planned so that failed projects could be minimised.

All the above presupposes that SABIO members would be prepared to undertake such services under the SABIO banner.

SABIO would need to facilitate the creation and maintenance of data bases of willing participants to supply services. As delivery would be at Association level co-operation between SABIO and Associations would need to be active, which in my opinion would be good for the industry.

There is an existing culture of co-operation at one level among hobbyist beekeepers which appears absent at other levels. If SABIO is to become a service provider, the culture of co-operation and service will need to be cultivated at all levels.

KOMMERSIËLE BYEBOERE – SABIO – NAMC

Die kommersiële byeboere is antagoristies teenoor SABIO omdat daar 'n gevoel is dat SABIO eerder die kleiner as groter byeboere verteenwoordig. Daarbenewens verteenwoordig SABIO ±400 tot 500 byeboere alhoewel daar vermoedelik meer as 2000 byeboere is Suid- Afrika is.

Alle aspekte van die NAMC verslag raak die kommersiële byeboere en tot dusver is daar weinig aandag aan hierdie aspekte deur SABIO gegee. Spesifiek handel, voedselsekuriteit en – veiligheid , pes en siektebeheer, navorsing en ontwikkelingsbyeboerdery wek kommer by kommersiële byeboere.

Wat statutêre heffings aanbetref of enige ander vorm van finansiering vir die byebedryf besef die kommersiële byeboere dat daar waarskynlik 'n groter bydrae van hulle verwag sal word (Statutêre heffings is vandag baie algemeen in die Suid Afrikaanse Landbou en meeste van ons wat vleis, melk , graanprodukte ens, gebruik betaal statutêre heffings. Statutêre heffings word gewoonlik van die eindverbruiker verhaal en dus sal die heuningprodusent in hierdie geval nie die betaler van die statutêre heffings wees nie)

Die ander interessantheid is dat heelwat van die groter byeboere ook kopers van heuning sowel as verkopers van toerusting in hul omgewings is. Skakel jy met byeboere dan hoor jy die gesprek die opinie van betrokke groter byeboer. M.a.w. as die betrokke byeboer positief is oor sake soos bv. Registrasie of SABIO- dan hoor jy dit, of vice versa . Ons het dus die effek van " word of mouth" wat net so 'n groot invloed of groter invloed as die SABJ of internetgeselsgroepe het op persone wat nie die vergaderings van Byeverenigings of SABIO bywoon nie.

Dus is die groter byeboer 'n belangrike teikengroep om positief teenoor die georganiseerde byebedryf te wees sodat 'n positiewe boodskap na die mense wat met hulle besigheid doen oorgedra kan word.

Byeboere is welkom om met my te skakel sodat ons bg. sake kan bespreek en oplossings soek. As ons aanvaar dat geen stelsel perfek is nie en mekaar ruimte gun om van mekaar in menings te verskil , sal aanvaar dat die oplossings nie uit ons oogpunt noodwendig die beste is nie, maar die breër bygemeenskap die beste sal doen kan ons al ons probleme in dinamika oplos.

Woon asb die vergaderings 17 Julie 2010 - Noord en 24 Julie 2010 – Suid by sodat jy deel kan wees van die oplossing

Theunis Engelbrecht (083 – 270 6278)

NAMC FACILITATION PROCESS LEGISLATION PORTFOLIO

Preamble

At this point in time there are close to 20 different legislative provisions relating to the Beekeeping Sector mainly found in secondary legislation; (i.e.) Regulations and Control Measures. In addition new legislation is in the pipeline in the form of a revision of Regulations in terms of the Agricultural Pest Act. This all leads to confusion, misinterpretation and an abstract set of guidelines / rules relating to the regulation of our Sector.

It is therefore envisaged that a single piece of legislation comprising a (primary) Act with (secondary) Regulations / Control Measures be promulgated to create a cohesive statutory framework in which the Beekeeping Sector and related Industries can function in a structured and supportive role with one another and the Government to promote and further the interests of all parties involved in Beekeeping in South Africa.

Implementation

Like all projects of this nature the implementation comprise two elements:

- **Process**
- **Substance**

Process

1. Identify past / current legislation affecting beekeeping in South Africa
2. Determine relevant issues for:
 - Primary Legislation – Beekeeping Act
 - Secondary Legislation – Regulations / Control Measures
3. Consultative Process – within Sector
4. Drafting of draft Bill
5. Further consultative process – again within Sector for ratification
6. Submission of final draft Bill acceptable to SABIO
7. Consultation with appropriate Government bodies / agencies / NAMC Committee
8. Agreement on proposed Bill
9. Government legal drafters to draft (fine tune) Bill
10. Process before Parliament
11. “Beekeeping Act” to be promulgated
12. Regulations / Control Measures to be assented to by Minister

Internal (SABIO) Consultative Process

Ideal Process:

- ❖ Consultative workshops around country with all interested parties (beekeepers – registered and unregistered; bottlers; pollinators, etc.) to understand legislation, identify issues of importance, make proposals, complete questionnaire, (not a debating forum!);
 - Central & Eastern Gauteng;
 - N. Transvaal;
 - Mpumalanga;
 - Kwa-Zulu Natal;
 - Northern Cape;
 - Eastern Province;
 - Southern Cape;
 - Western Cape
- ❖ Collation of ideas for Item 4. above;
- ❖ Question of Logistics, Time & Cost.

Alternate Process:

- ❖ Questionnaire circulated to all interested persons
 - SABIO Mailing List, Association Membership Lists, Google Group Networks.
- ❖ Question of Response Costs – downloading of e-mail responses & paper / printing costs;
- ❖ Evaluation of Responses.

Substance

1. Collation of past, current and proposed legislation impacting on Beekeeping Sector in South Africa;
2. Analysis of relevant international examples of Beekeeping legislation;
3. Identification of relevant issues for current and future Beekeeping Sector in South Africa:
 - Purpose of Beekeeping Legislation;
 - Relevant definitions;
 - Structure of the Sector;

- Establishment of “Apicultural Advisory Council”;
- Role & authority of relevant Government Departments, (e.g.) DAFF;
- Designation & powers of “apicultural officers”;
- Registration of beekeepers, Beekeeping Associations, pollinators & bee removal service providers;
- Statutory levies;
- Establishment of quality standards for bee products;
- Health & Safety standards in bee product processing;
- Marketing & Labelling of Bee products;
- Importation controls & regulations and tariff measures;
- Standards in pollination services;
- Preservation of forage sources;
- Disease and Pest control measures;
- Promotion of Research Institutions;
- Promotion of Developmental Beekeeping;
- Training & development standards in beekeeping;
- Fines & Penalties;
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

4. What do you want to call the legislation?

- **Beekeeping Act;**
- **Apicultural Act;**
- **Bee Industry Bio-Diversity Act;**
- **Promotion of Bee Industry Act;**
- **???????????**

MIKE MILES

25th June 2010

SA BEE INDUSTRY

Implementation of NAMC Section 7 Recommendations

Dawid Smit (Facilitator for Funding) 29 June 2010

A. ROLEPLAYERS

1. Direct

Commercial beekeepers, Associations, Groups, Bottlers, Other hive product processors, Bee removers, Hobbyist beekeepers, (Bees), Emerging beekeepers, Trainers, Pollination service providers,

2. Indirect

Government, Apimondia, Researchers, Equipment Manufacturers, Retailers, Labour, Environment, Crop producers, Forrestry, Agriculture (national & provincial), Chemical companies, Working for Water, Landowners, Local authorities, Consumers, NAMC,

B. COMMUNICATION VEHICLES

SA Bee Journal, Email chat groups, Email, Website, Media, Snail-mail, Word of mouth, Associations, Meetings, Beacon,

C. SCHEDULE TO BE ESTABLISHED

Facilitator proposals, Meetings, Industry comments, Final drafts, Government gazette, Promulgation, Implementation,

D. REQUIREMENTS FOR STATUTORY LEVIES (ACT 47 OF 1996) --- NAMC

1. Procedural & Guideline

Full application by Industry, Revised every 4 years, Typical ca 0.5% (max 5%) of Product value, Collected @ 1st point of sale, Industry support must be convincing, Very high degree of collection must be possible, Administrative body have to be a so-called Article 21 Company,

2. Utilisation of Levies (Typical)

Administration	10 %
Research	40 %
Transformation	20 %
Information	10 %
Promotion	15 %
Quality Control	5 %

E. ASPECTS :

1. Structure(s)

To be taken into account : Government, Support Institutions, SABIO, Associations, Beekeepers (various types), Other roleplayers, Constitution, Forums, Management Committee, CEO, Office, Apimondia, Conferences,

TRADE

- Framework for discussion

Rolling out the NAMC report on the South African Honey Industry

ARC, Rietondale

25 June 2010

Telephone: 082-4234606

Components

- Product range
 - Natural Foodstuff
 - Food additive
- Pollination service
- Trade basic principles
 - Demand
 - Supply
- Supply chain logistics
- Economics
 - Production
 - Packaging
 - Distribution

Global review

- China
- Africa

SADC (Anglo, Zambia, Mozambique)

- Consumption champions (why no export from SA?)

•Europe, UK

- “Import Parity Price” (e.g. wheat, maize, soya)

•When the landed import price sets the price levels for the same product produced locally

•Note that imported honey is being flown into SA from the gulf states – where do the bees find nectar and pollen in that desert? Transshipped Cheap Chinese honey????

Demand – Local market

- “Pootjie heuning”

- Supermarkets

 - Branding

 - Innovation

 - Food safety

 - HACCP Honey extraction and package

 - Traceability

- Food Processors

 - Foodstuffs

 - Liquor

 - Medical / Health

 - Byproducts, e.g. wax

 - “honey” as promotional tool – legislation e.g. honey peanuts

(What if the word “honey crunch” appears as a descriptive noun on the label or packaging)

Demand – export markets

- Monetary considerations

 - £, €, \$, ¥

- Supermarkets

- Accreditation

- Development initiative

 - Production areas

 - Contractual agreements (volume, GAP)

 - HACCP extraction and packaging

Supply

Volumes

- Geographic basis

–District / Province / Biome

- Floral source

 - Natural vegetation

 - Agricultural landscape, e.g. lucern, citrus

- Presentation

 - Squeeze bottle, “bears”, “slim wine bottle”

- Packsize

 - 500g container

 - variants

Market prescriptions

- Biodiversity

- “Green Choice”

- “GAP”

- Farming for the Future

- “The Living Farm”

Legal prescriptions

- Quality standards

- Product labeling and identification

- Food safety

Institutional links

- Trade / Codex protocols

 - Trade barriers

 - DTI

 - Dept. Agriculture

- Food safety

 - Accredited state laboratory

- Environmental issues

- CARA, NEMA, WfW, WfF,

- “Badger friendly”

“The Gaps”

- Information and statistics

- Volumes

- Production

- Economics

- Industry Development Scenario

- Unique qualities of South African honey

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

This section deals with two major concerns. Firstly the control and management of pests and disease like Varoa and AFB; secondly protecting our bees from poisoning by growers that are protecting their crop.

Poisoning of bees

From personal experience, growers do not deliberately kill bees. Its more a case of not realizing the impact of certain chemicals on the environment that sometimes leads to the loss of wild colonies and those from beekeepers. Although the registration of chemicals is rigid, the application thereof is sometimes inadequate. Therefore SABIO should be active on forums with grower organizations and the chemical industry to emphasise this matter.

Control and management of pest and disease

Although most of this topic will be covered by legislation it is still important to discuss the different role players in this section. The most important problems we are dealing with are AFB, EFB, Varoa, the capencis problem and badgers.

AFB, EFB and the Capencis problem

Should the industry monitor this disease, or should it be the role of government?
(Bee inspectors, record keeping)

How will this disease be treated? (Burning, use of chemicals)

How will beekeepers prevent spreading this disease? (Moving restrictions)

Varoa

Is this problem still a thread for beekeepers or have they decided just to live with it?

Honey badgers

Has the badger program served its purpose? Is badger friendly accreditation still important for retailers and bottlers?

The minor problems such as hive beetles, wax moth ect. are covered by good beekeeping practice and management.

NAMC WAY FORWARD: IMPORTANT DATES

Facilitators send through info that will be posted on the website to Jan Barnard at jan@sabio.org.za and john@honeywoodfarm.co.za

1 July 2010: Information received from facilitators to be published on SABIO website

17 July 2010: NAMC Facilitators information session at EHBA at 09:30 This will be an open meeting to members to obtain and give input regarding SABIO' s recommendations to NAMC

Venue: 186 Uys Street, Rynfield Agricultural Holdings, Benoni

Contact: Glen Terry 011 896 1944 0834694453

24 July 2010: NAMC Facilitators information session at Western Cape Bee Industry organisation.

This will be an open meeting to members to obtain and give input regarding SABIO' s recommendations to NAMC

Venue: To be confirmed

Contact: Lynette Barnes 0712411411,

24 July 2010: NAMC Consolidation meeting in WP

Venue: To be confirmed

9 August 2010: Final SABIO meeting regarding proposals to NAMC

Venue: NAMC will confirm

10 August 2010: Final Meeting with NAMC regarding SABIO proposals

Venue: NAMC will confirm

Agendas for the 17th and 24th will be finalised and sent through shortly

Mike & John, Here is my thinking in order to motivate our members to support SABIO in its efforts, and to be an answer to Brett's and Peter's resistance. Your comments and should we send it out ?

Fellow EHBA members,

On the 17th July our meeting will host Southern's and Northern's and any interested beekeepers, to hear what SABIO's plans for our future are, and what we want the "Beekeepers Act" to contain.

If we do not participate and give our input, well then we must not cry when the Act is promulgated and not to our liking.

After the 1st July we should receive the synopsis of each SABIO facilitators portfolio.

Note that they are not going to dictate or direct their portfolios, but to facilitate the furtherance of their portfolios.

1. I see SABIO been our negotiator with NAMC (National Agricultural Marketing Council) through whom a bill will be prepared for Parliament to approve.
2. We need a national body to promote and market honey bee products, just as done in New Zealand.
3. To encourage new beekeepers and afford training, in accordance with an approved syllabus, by suitably qualified trainers. WE should not be importing honey, when there are so many people out of work.
4. There is a need to ensure the consumer is buying quality and hygienically safe product.
5. Keeping us informed about pests and disease control.
6. Ensuring bee forage is promoted, and stop the eradication of the eucalyptus trees.
7. Defining and deciding what research should be done at various institutions and how to obtain funding.
8. How to obtain funding for all this and then to control its expenditure.
9. Encourage innovative equipment manufacture, standardisation , and suppliers of equipment such as our cell size of foundation wax.
10. Promoting and seeing that commercial producers have good trading opportunities.
11. Pollinators are able to negotiate with agriculture on common problems.
12. What control should there be on Api-therapists ?
13. What control is there over imported honey ? Who is to be the watch dog ? SABIO ?
14. Conduit for information from like minded bodies overseas, and attending APIMONDIA. Organising our SA Beecon for constructive information dissemination. Inviting specialists to lecture.

Well these 13 different 'Facilitators' are all designed to improve the beekeeping industry, and enhance our status, and hopefully our profit at the end of the day.

Here are 3 scenarios we can follow:

A. A beekeeper could ignore SABIO and continue to produce his honey for his clients, just as we have always done. If there is a disease out there and wipes his colonies out. Tough. Maybe he unwittingly spreads the disease to us and the wild population. Now that is where the government will become involved because it is going to affect crop production, and this beekeeper will feel aggrieved when all his bees are destroyed.

Because there is an Beekeepers Act which required him to be registered and inform the Govt Inspector of any problem, he will become the centre of a lot of attention.

B. So the beekeeper registers with SABIO but absolutely refuses to contribute to SABIO. However he is willing to share in all the research gained, the marketing of honey, and information on keeping diseases away from his bees. Well soon there won't be any funds to promote SABIO with consequent demise of a vibrant bee industry, because why should I pay when he does not.

C. The beekeeper registers with SABIO, pays a joining subs, agrees to abide by good practices, contributes to SABIO say a few cents for every bottle he sells, and receives information and help from SABIO that furthers his business to be making a better profit.

The bee industry status will be recognised as an essential part of agriculture and be liaised with by other interested parties. It will be the consumer who pays for SABIO but also receives a better product.

The crunch is going to be how much is each producer going to contribute , and how is it going to be fairly controlled. ??

Suppose SABIO should have a budget, and if we knew how much honey is sold, then a simple sum would tell us how much per bottle.

It is up to us to decide if we want a Beekeepers Organisation, and what its function/ constitution should be.

Best regards
Glen Terry
<http://www.icon.co.za/~baindrain/>