

*10th Caribbean  
Beekeeping Congress.  
Tobago Country Paper.*

Mr. Cherith Irvine

Division of Food Production , Forestry and Fisheries

Apiculture Officer



# *Geographical Location*

*Smaller of the two (2) islands of the Republic of  
Trinidad & Tobago.*

*Location- Northeast of Trinidad and South east of  
Grenada*

*Population- 60,874 (2011) census.*

*Land area of 300 km<sup>2</sup>*

*Climate*



# Map of Tobago





# *Types of Bees*

- Honey bees present in Tobago:
  - (i) *Apis mellifera* of European origin
  - (ii) several species of stingless bees:
    - Bumble bees
    - *Trigona nigra*
    - *Melipona favosa*.



# *History of Beekeeping in Tobago*

- ◆ Based on reports the honey bee *Apis mellifera* was reared on the island since 1918.
  - ◆ Beekeeping on an ongoing basis began in 1950.
- ◆ First Caribbean Beekeeping Congress was held in 1998
- ◆ Tobago Apicultural Society was established in 1992.



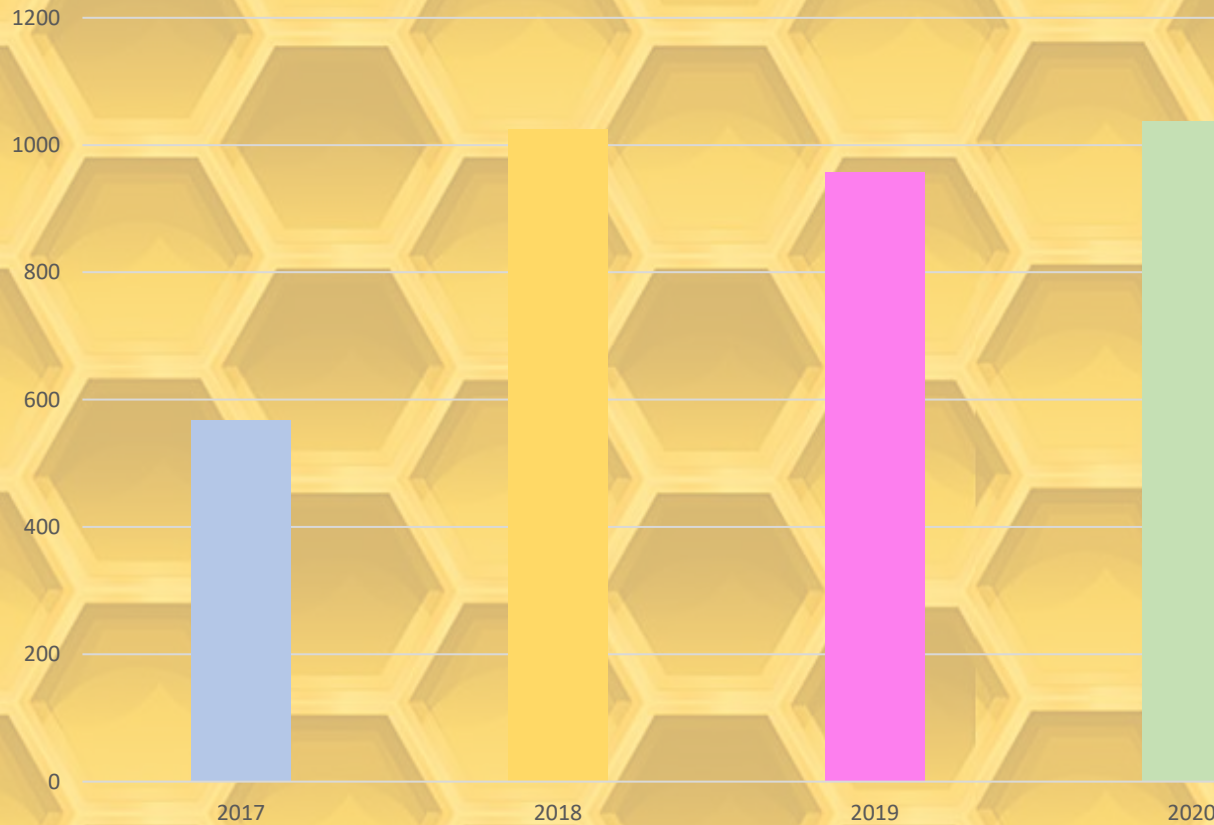
# *Demographic profile*

**The following is based on a recently conducted island wide colony count :**

- ◆ **52 active beekeepers**
  - ◆ **85 apiary sites**
  - ◆ **1,035 colonies**



# Demographic profile



# *Number of Beekeepers.*

<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
45	7



# *Beekeepers & Colonies*

Colonies	% of beekeepers
<10	20%
>10	80%



# *Value-added Hive-Products*

◆ Honey is the principal product

Ranges from :

750ml (TT\$160.00-TT\$200.00)

300ml (TT\$70.00-TT\$90.00).

◆ Beeswax (TT\$ 50.00- TT\$80.00 per lb.

◆ Pollen (TT\$20.00- TT\$35.00 per oz

( Soaps, Creams, Mead, Beeswax candles).



# *In the Hive !!!!*





# Value Added Products





# *Threats to the beekeeping Industry*

- ◆ Rapid physical development.
- ◆ Indiscriminate use of pesticides.
- ◆ Deforestation
- ◆ Possible importation of honey



# *Challenges Faced by Beekeepers*

- ◆ Praedial Larceny
  - ◆ Land Tenure
  - ◆ Climate change
- ◆ Availability of land
  - ◆ Access to credit
  - ◆ Access Roads



# Pests & Diseases

**Wax Moth, Army Ants and Varroa Mite can be identified in Tobago .**



**Wax moth-(Achroia grisella )**



**Army ants-(Eciton burchellii )**



**Varroa mite – (Varroa destructor)**



**Tracheal mite - Acarapis wodi**



# *Level of Government support*

**The Department of Food Production , Forestry and Fisheries (Tobago House of Assembly ) provides support to beekeepers through the provision of the following services:-**

- ◆ **Incentive / Subsidy Programme** – to boost and encourage beekeeping as a viable business .
- ◆ **Extension Services-** technical advice to beekeepers via Technical Field Assistants and enlisting new beekeepers to the sector.
- ◆ **Training / Workshops-** to provide hands on theory and practical Introduction to beekeeping courses .



# *Future Projects*

- ◆ Queen rearing program
- ◆ Establishing of government apiary
  - ◆ Honey analysis
- ◆ Courses on Stingless bees/ European honey bees



# *Conclusion*

- **Reports conducted in November 2020 concluded operations of 52 active beekeepers and 85 apiary sites producing 1,035 colonies (Inclusive of 2 Government managed Department Apiaries).**
- **During the period 2017-2020 there has been an increase in the numbers by 467 colonies .**
- **Tobago continues to strive in the beekeeping industry despite the many challenges faced .**



THANK YOU

