



**BEE KEEPERS  
ASSOCIATION INC.**



# 10th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress.



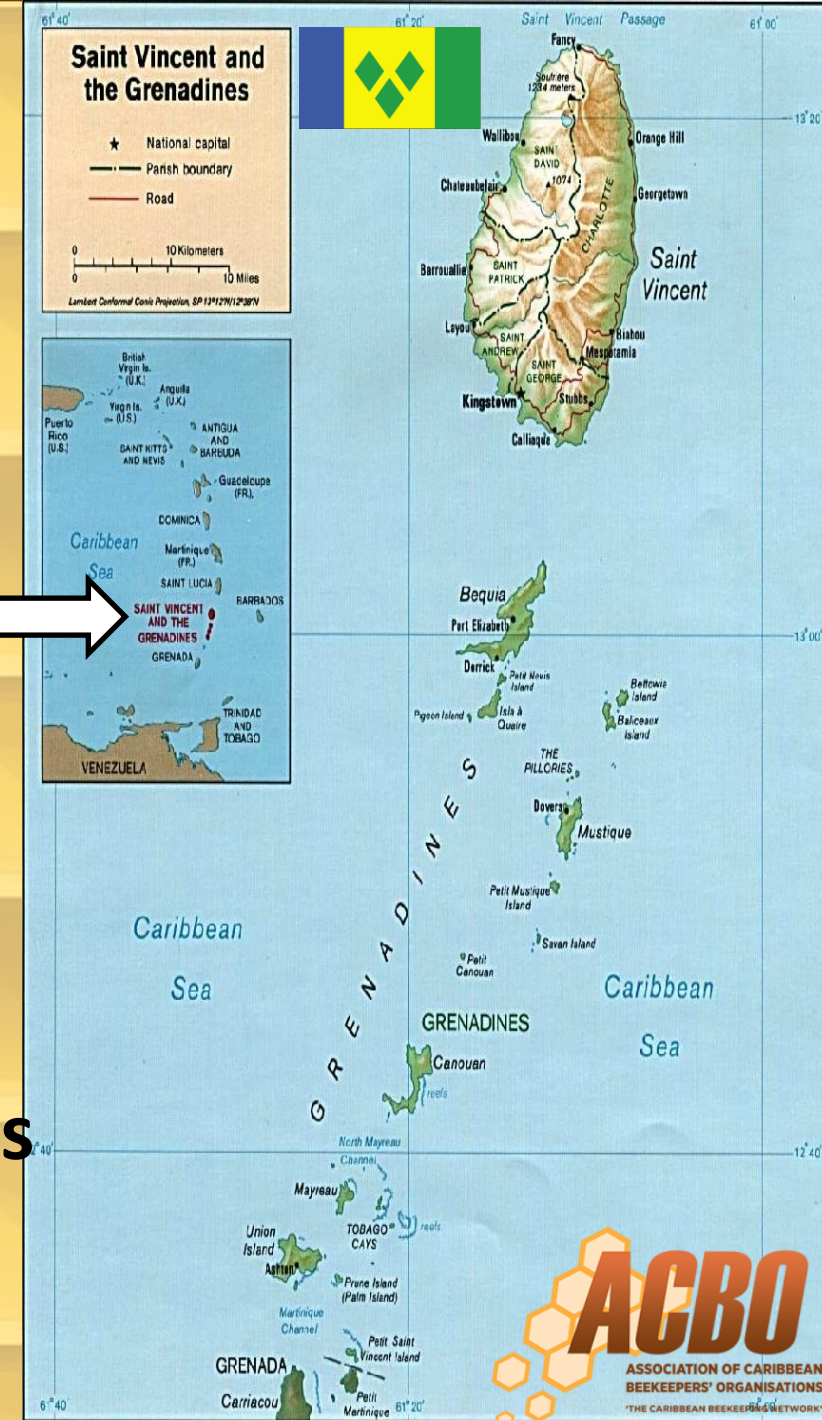
## St. Vincent & the Grenadines Country Paper.

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November 2020



# History of Beekeeping in SVG

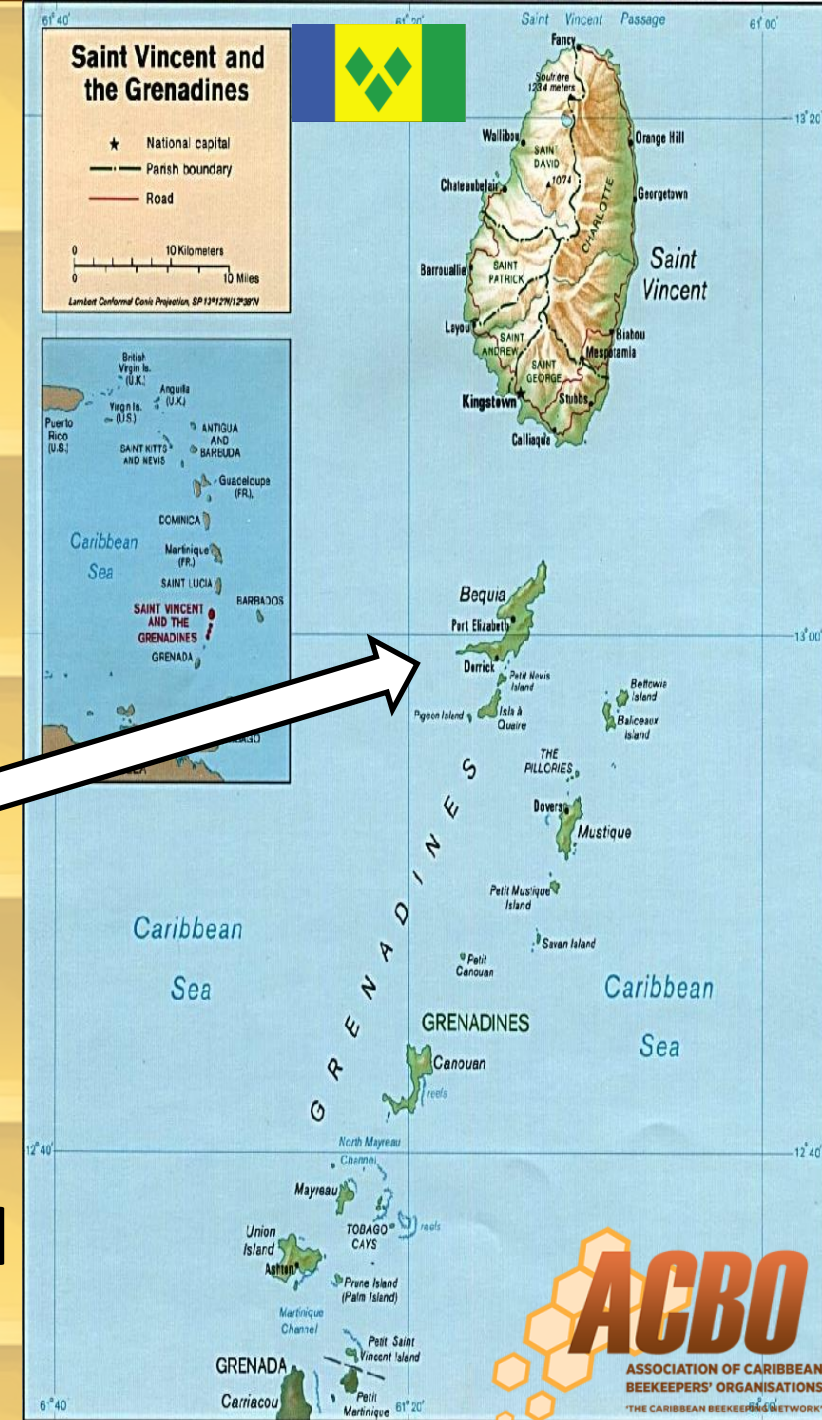
- 150 Square Miles
- 110,000 people
- Capital - Kingstown
- General Steep slope landscape
- 75.9 inches rain (less than 50% Grenadines)
- Bees were introduced around late 1950s
- Expansion of beekeeping began in the '80s
- Honey was exported to England during that time





# History of Beekeeping in SVG

- 1991 – 2000 Beekeeping began to extend to the wider populace but was still a very niche small farming sector.
- The only Grenadine island that practiced beekeeping was Bequia.
- Varroa Mite: (1997-Robert Balcombe)  
The pest was responsible for almost wiping out bee hives in S.V.G. Bequia had suffered 100% loss. (FAVACA/IICA)

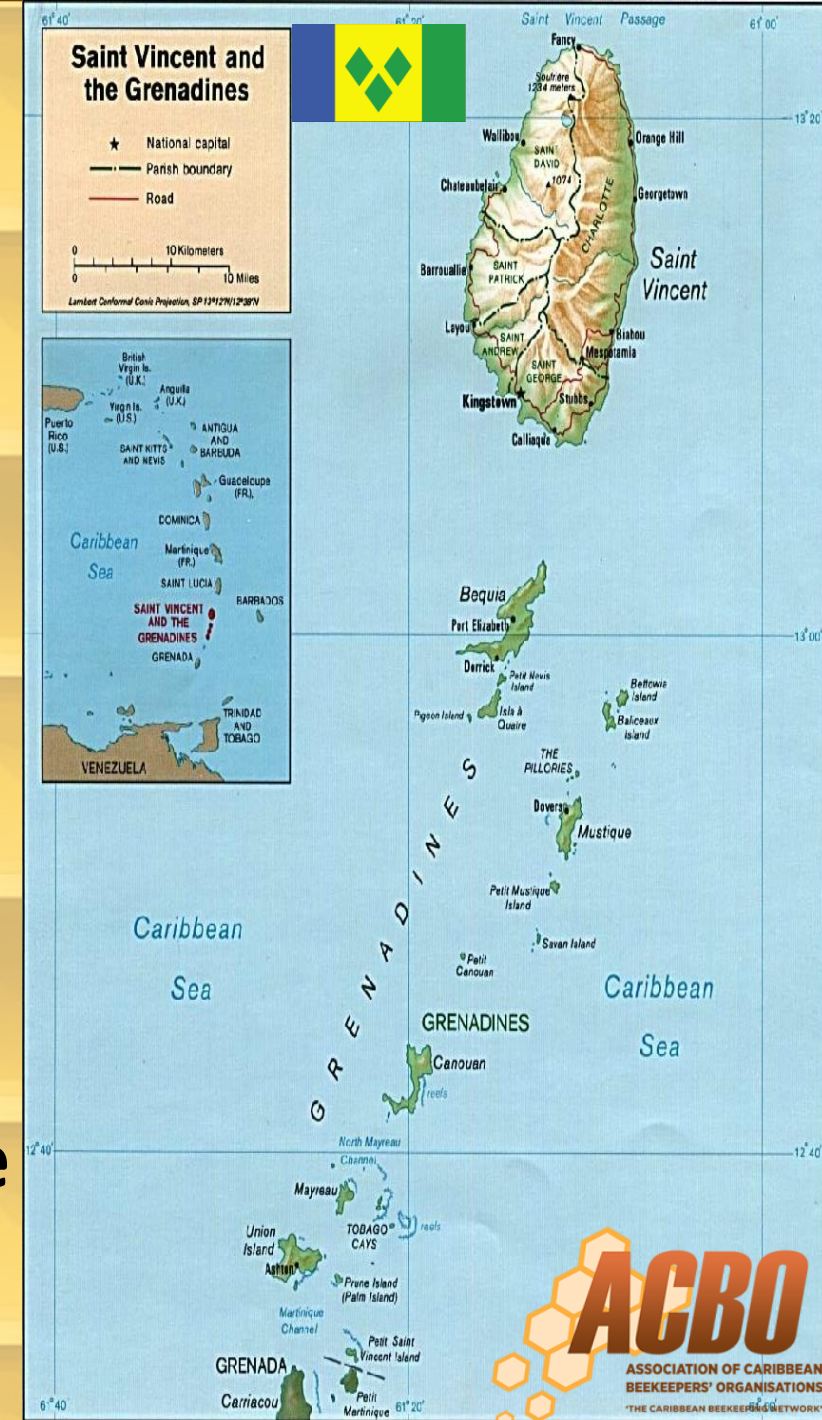




# History of Beekeeping in SVG

Revitalization of the Beekeeping Industry began in 2006 (26 domesticated hives).

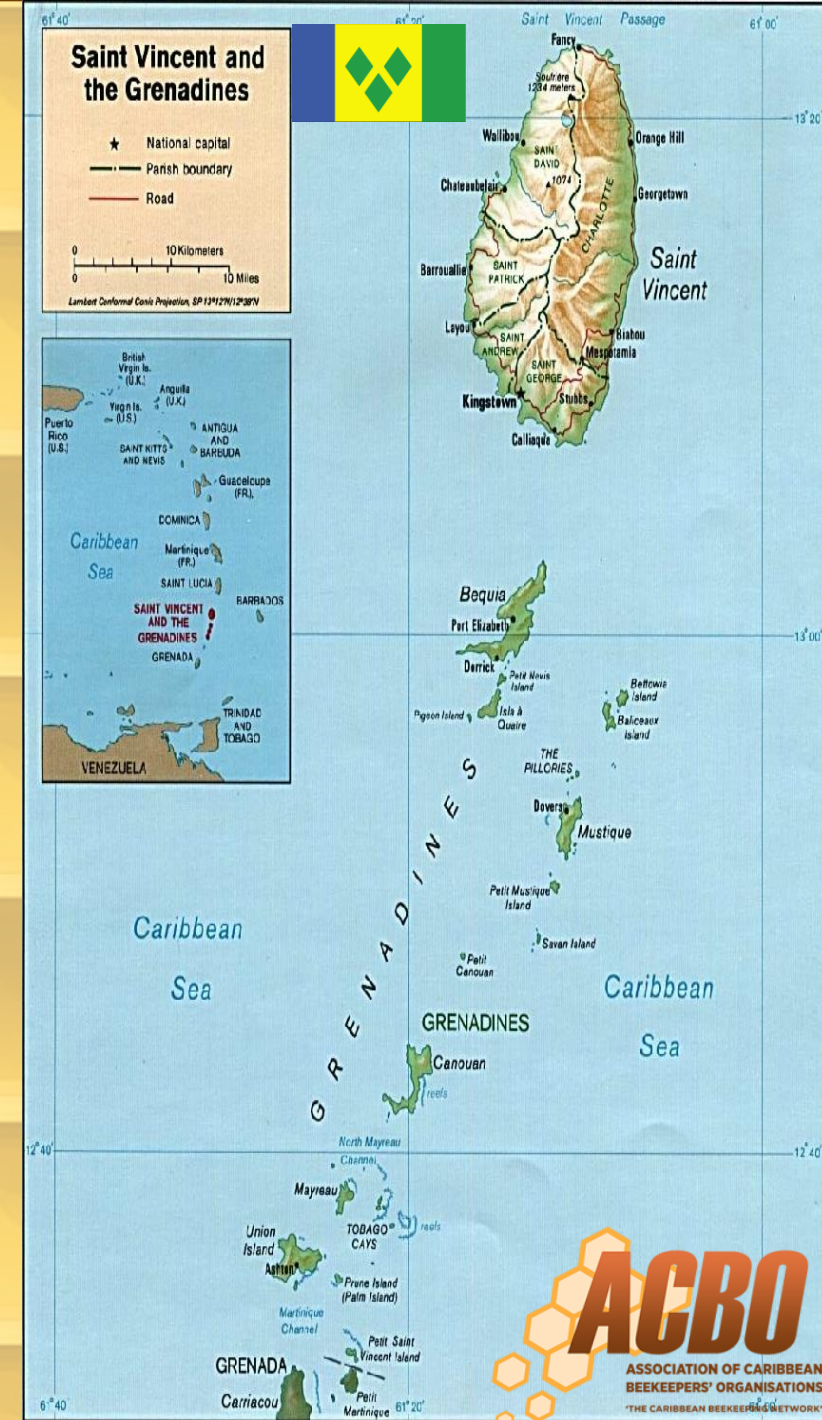
- Formation of the SVG Beekeepers Inc
- STABEX Funding:
  - a) Importation of Hive from St. Lucia
  - b) Supply farmers with starter kits
- Importation of Italian Hybrid from Hawaii.
- Small scale, queen rearing and bee breeding
- Training of new beekeepers





# History of Beekeeping in SVG

- Revitalization of the Beekeeping Industry 2006 - 2015
  - EZI Queen - queen rearing system
  - Varroa Mite Control (Screen Bottom Boards, natural proboscis devouring)
- Honey return on the supermarket shelves in 2008
- SVGBA was formally registered in 2010
- Honey was exported to Barbados from Export to Canada in 2012





# History of Beekeeping in SVG

- Growth and Sustainability of the Beekeeping Industry from 2016 onwards

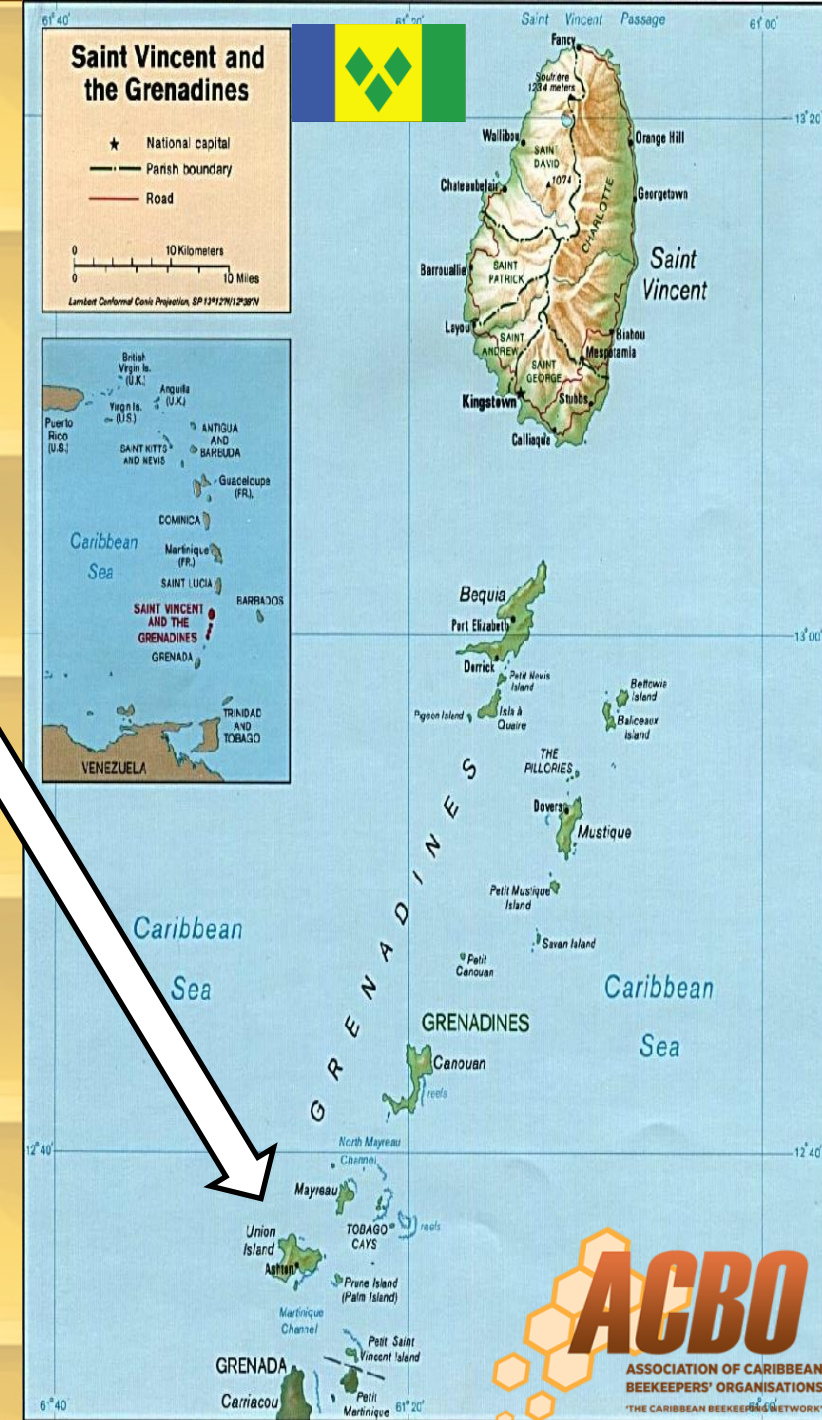
a) AUSAID Intervention

Introduction of bees in Union Island  
queen rearing and bee breeding;  
Supply Beekeeping Equipment

b) IICA Intervention

- Perone Hive Technology
- Governance

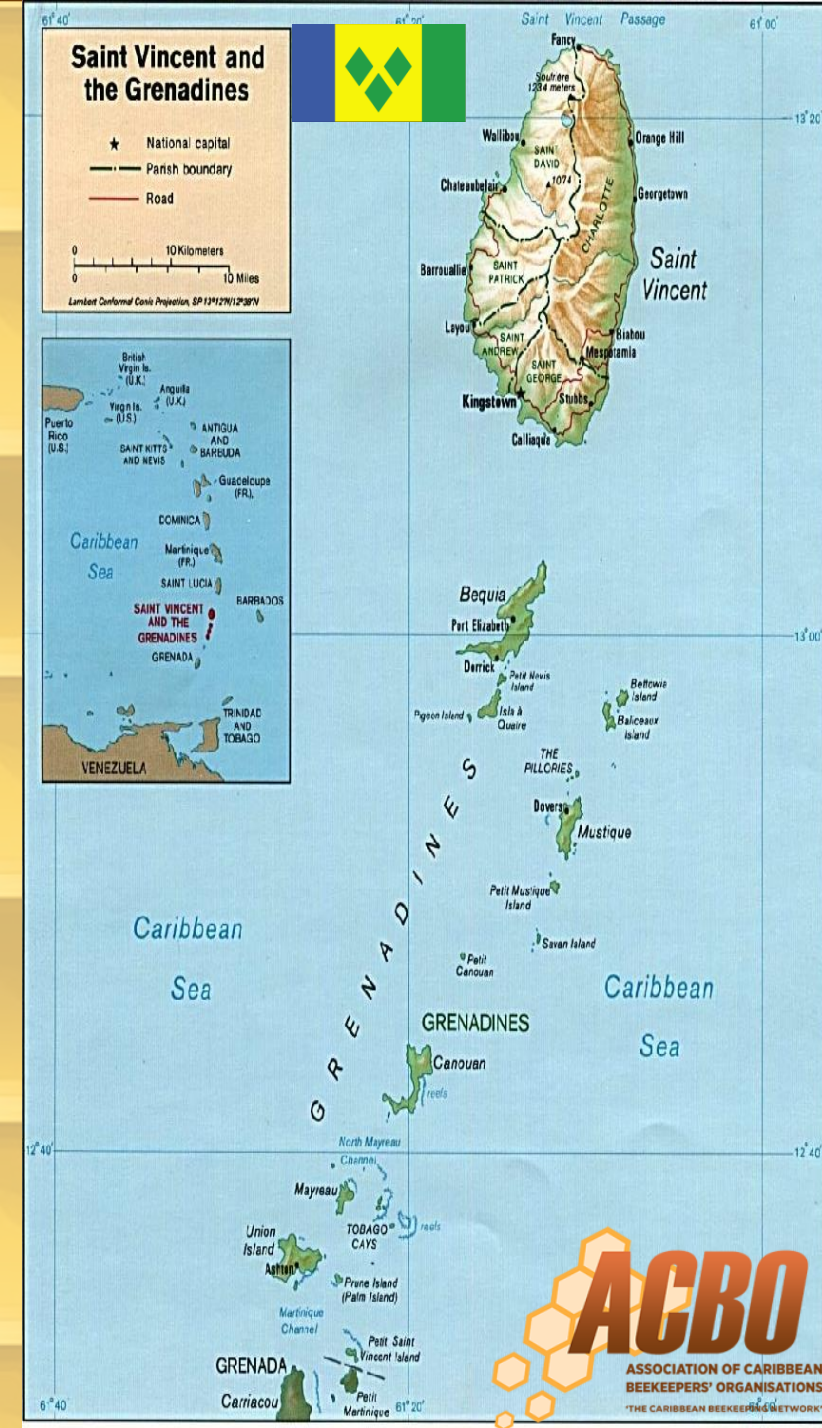
c) USAID Intervention – Expansion of beekeeping in Union Island.





# History of Beekeeping in SVG

- Growth and Sustainability of the Beekeeping Industry from 2016 onwards
- d) FAO – Queen Rearing on the mainland colony expansion
- e) IICA – improve governance of the SVGBA (establishing an operation manual)
- f) GEF/SusGren – Establishment of FLOW Hives in Union Island Agro-Tourism Site





# Demographic profile of sector in SVG

1. Type of bees: Italian, Spanish
2. Number of domesticated colonies: 729
3. Average Production per year – 1200gals, 14,160lbs (Grenadines now producing more than 45% of total production having 151 domesticated hives)



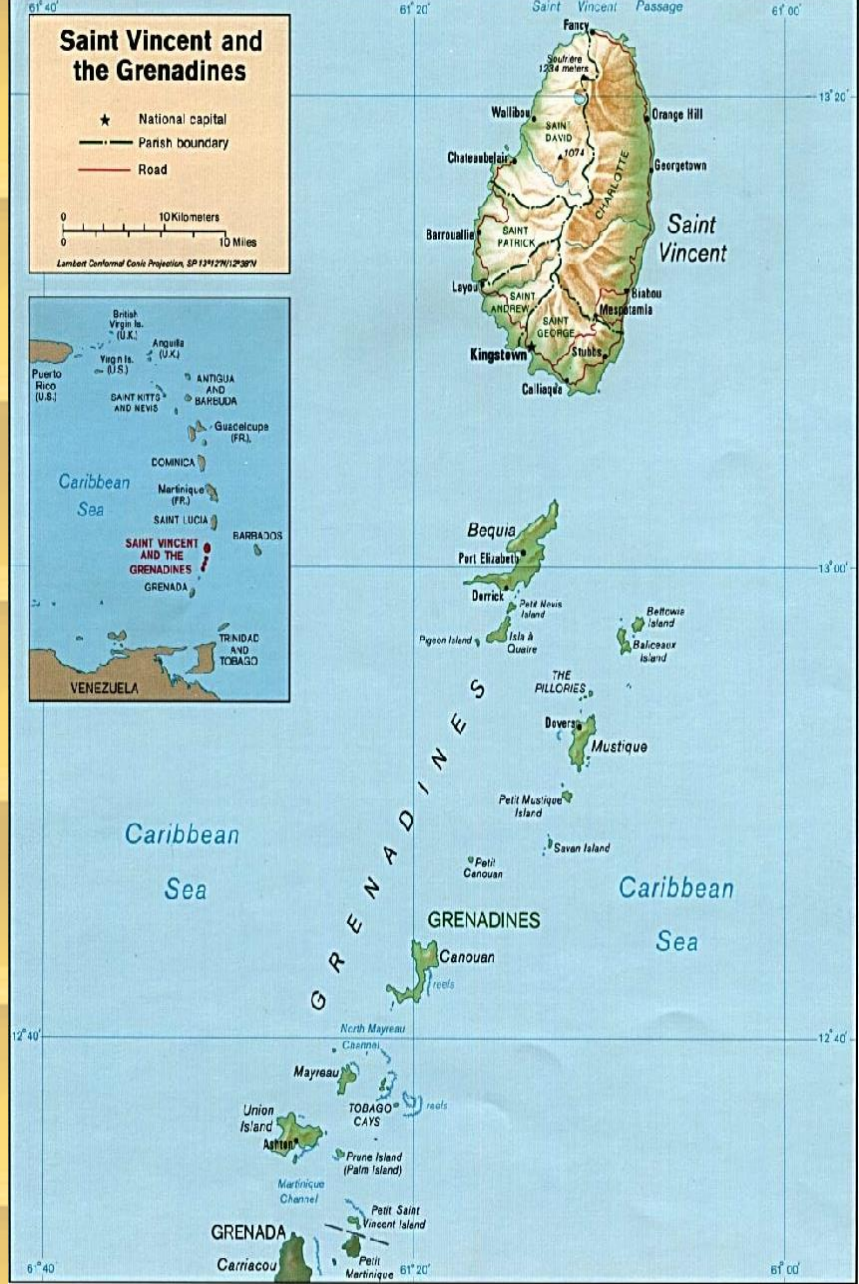
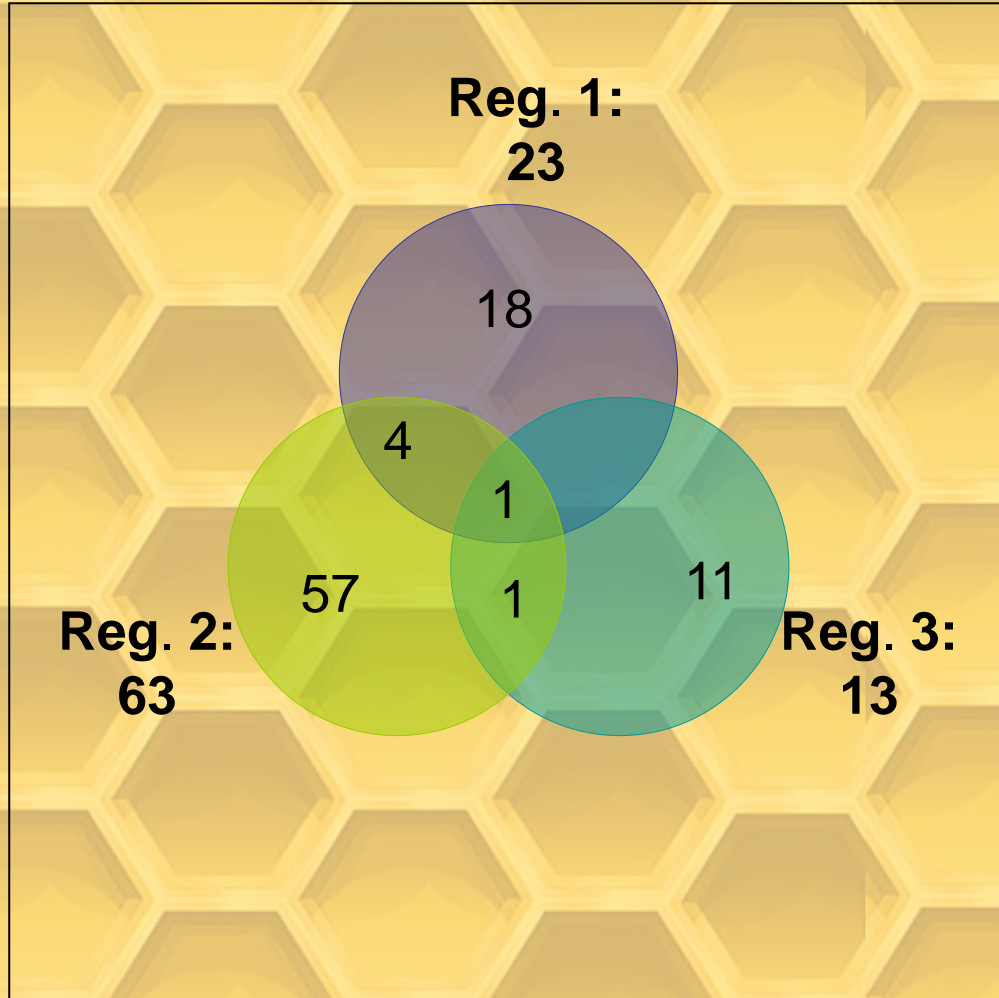
# Distribution of Beekeepers in SVG = 92

**M = 87%**

**F = 13%**

**< 40 = 10%**

**>40 = 90%**





# **Successes and Challenges to growth development in SVG**

- Vulnerability to invasion of Africanized Bees and other pest and diseases**
- Residential expansion**
- Development of other crop sectors**
- Limited of Local funding**
- Praedial Larceny (new occurrences)**
- Inconsistent honey yield due to rainfall**



# **Successes and Challenges to growth development in SVG**

- Increasing demand for local honey**
- New job opportunities for young people**
- Increase in crop yields and vegetation**
- Innovative beekeeping**
- International and regional support**
- other lucrative by-products**



# Future Projects

- **Standardization of Local Honey Production**
- **Improvement of Meliferic Vegetation in the Grenadines**
- **Equip Lab and establish a home for the SVGBA**
- **Colony Expansion**
- **Product Diversification**







































