

10th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress

Country Paper

Saint Lucia

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SAINT LUCIA APICULTURE HISTORY



- It is common knowledge the Apiculture industry was brought to our shores in the 18th Century by the Europeans.
- In the 19th Century, honey and wax were exported to England.
- We should also note, most Apicultural Equipment were locally made example Smokers, extractors, foundations and frames.
- In 1994 Apiculture found its home with the Veterinary and Livestock Services Division. It was first in the hands of the Forestry Department then Research Division.

SAINT LUCIA APICULTURE HISTORY

- There were approximately 170 beekeepers in 1998 with an average productivity of 8 gals per hive. Supplying the local markets and also a vibrant export market to Martinique.
- Saint Lucia experienced great losses due to the Varroa mite, which reduced productivity to 50% and loss of foreign markets.



SAINT LUCIA APICULTURE HISTORY

We have seen an improvement in production since 2008:

- a 750 ml bottle of honey was sold at \$25 and now sold at average of \$50 per bottle.

Creamed Honey



SAINT LUCIA APICULTURE HISTORY

- Langstroth is the dominant type of hive used.
- You may also find Top bar and Perone hives which were later introduced.

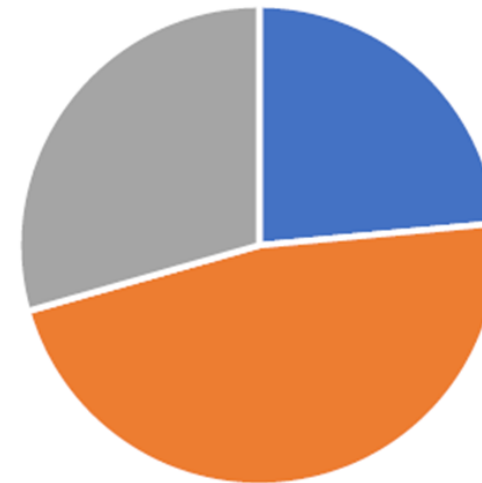


BEE POPULATION

The bee population of St. Lucia has 2 main origins:

- 47% are from Western Europe (line M, especially the subspecies *Apis mellifera*)
- 24% of the bees are from Africa (line A, especially the subspecies *Apis scutellata*).
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- 3. The rest is a mix of the two main origins.

Representation of the genetic population of honeybees in Saint Lucia

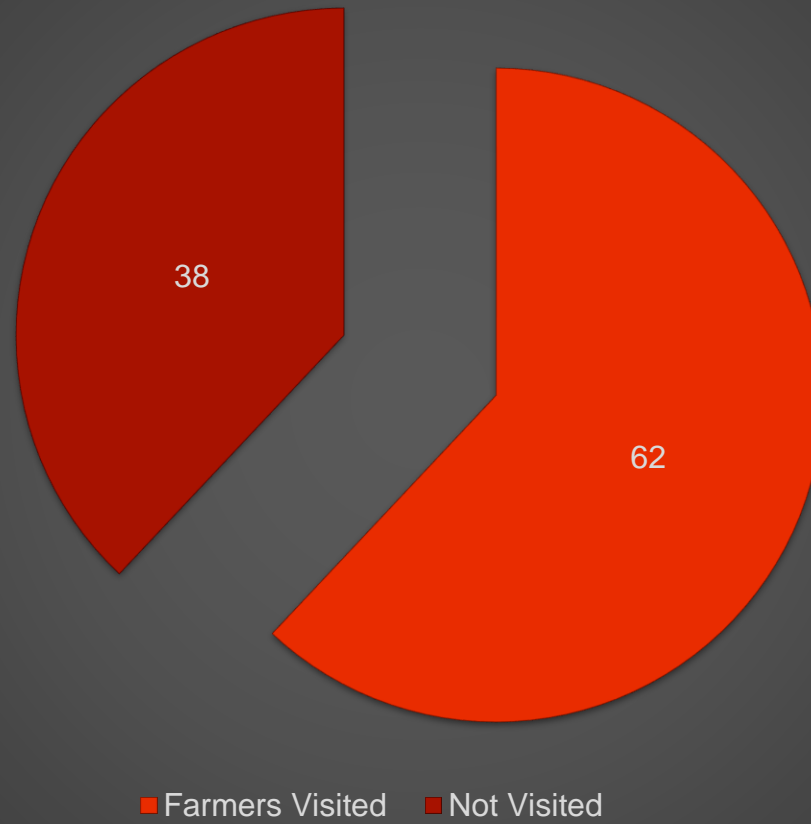


■ African ■ Melifera ■ Hybride

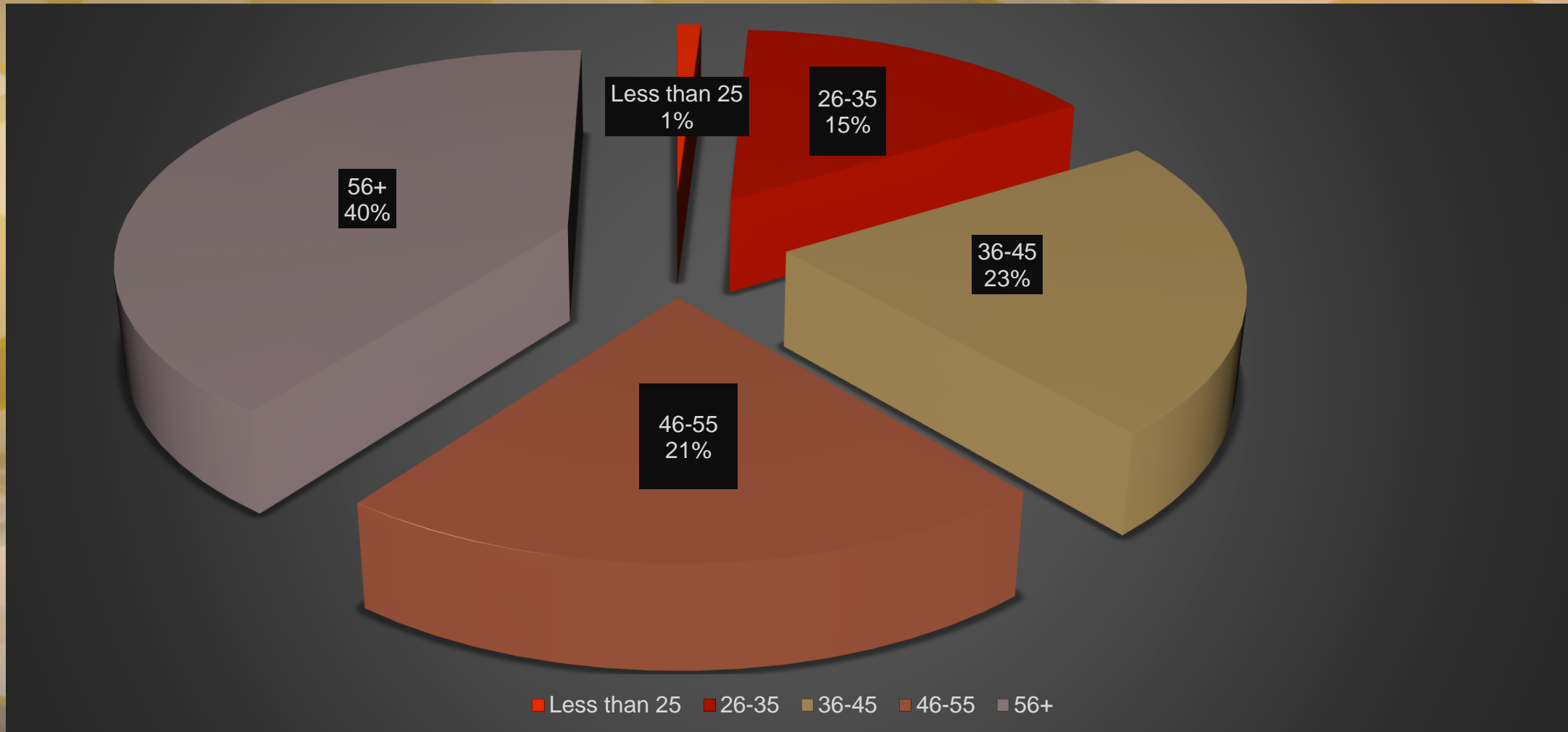
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SECTOR



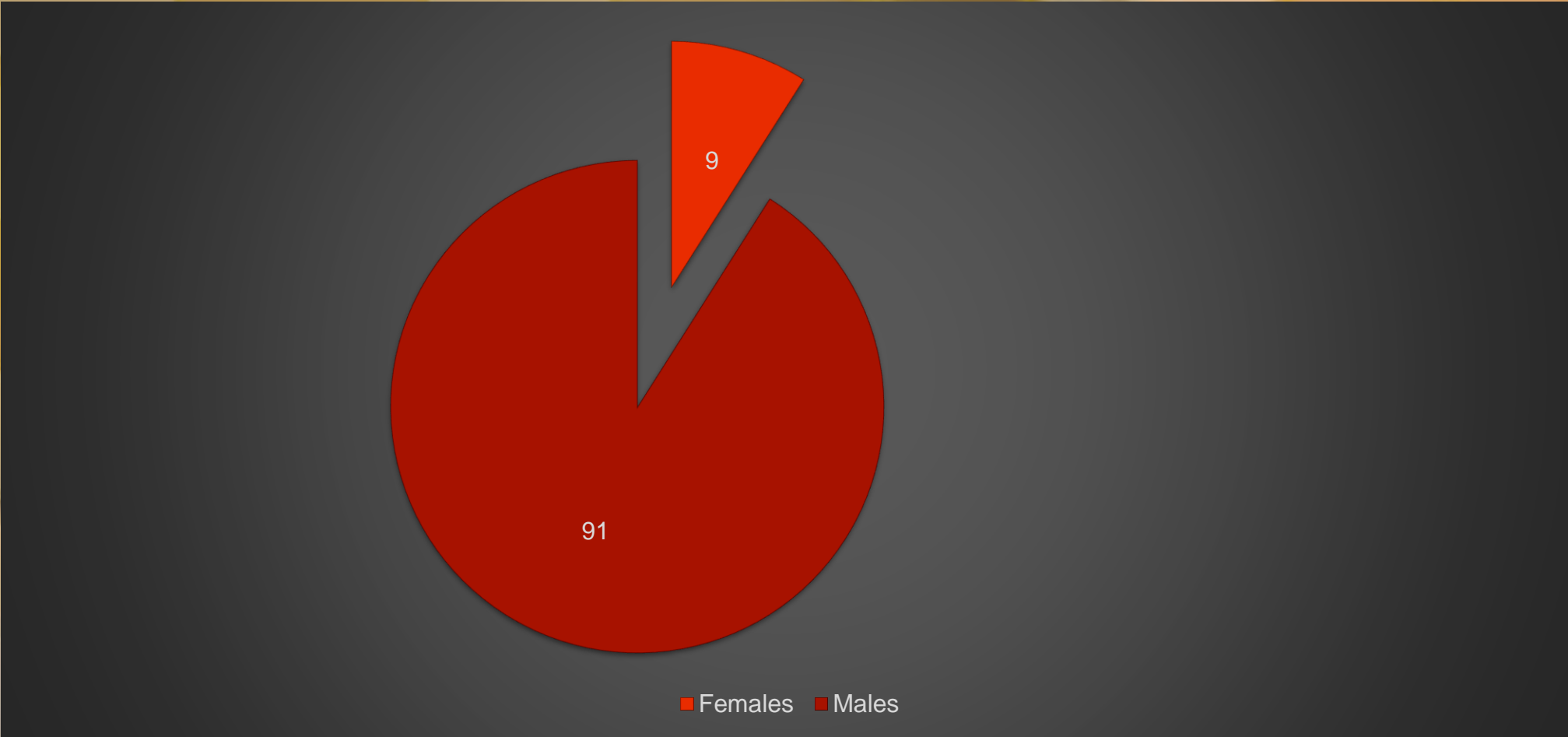
SURVEY INTERACTION



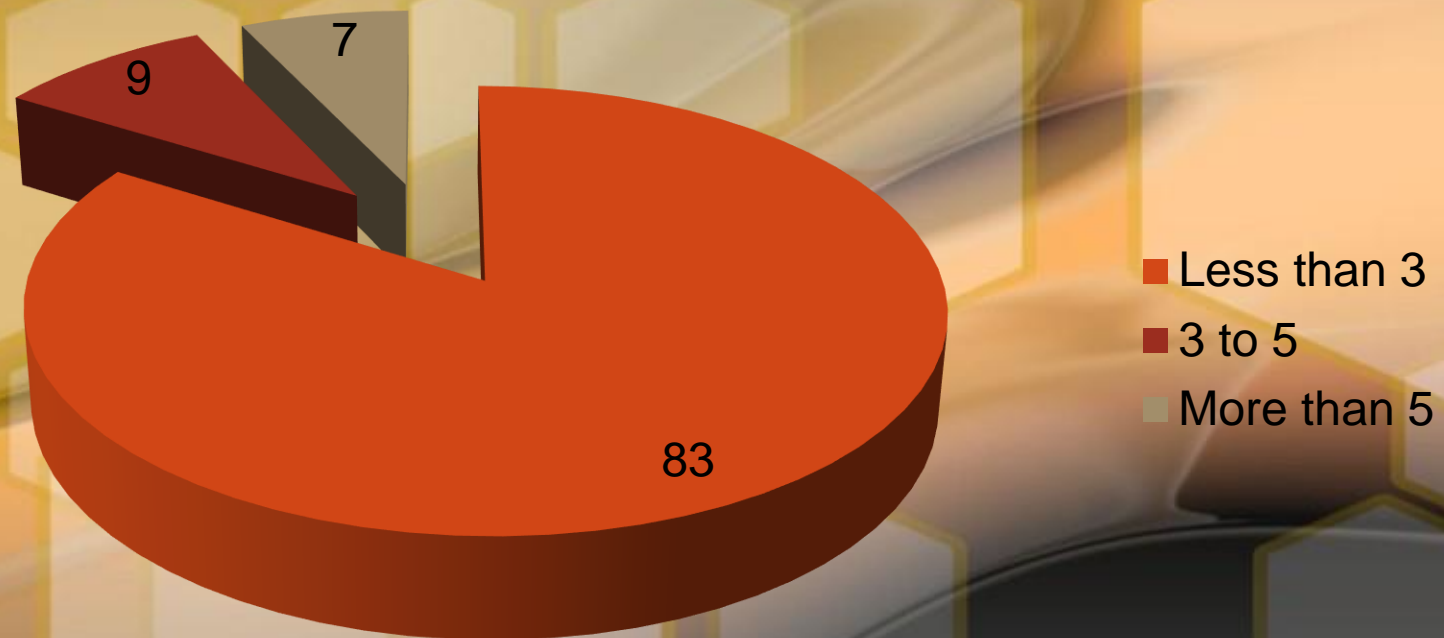
PRODUCERS' AGE CLASSIFICATION



Gender



CLASSIFICATION OF APIARIES OWNED



HONEY PRODUCTION 2012-2019

- 2012 7 gallons 3200 bee colonies
- 2013 5 gallons 3200 bee colonies
- 2014 4 gallons 3500 bee colonies
- 2015 6 gallons 4000 bee colonies
- 2016 2.75 gallons 4000 bee colonies
- 2017 4 gallons 4000 bee colonies
- 2018 4 gallons 4000 bee colonies
- 2019 4.5 gallons 4000 bee colonies

NB Before 1998, average production 8 gallons.



SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES TO GROWTH DEVELOPMENT

- Improved honey supply as compared to the past 10 years.
- National Processing Facility.
- Increase in Apiculture producers to approximately 245 producers.
- Establishment of Standard for Honey & Code of Practice.
- GEF Initiative



SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES TO GROWTH DEVELOPMENT



- Climate Change
- Chalk Brood
- The Varroa mite



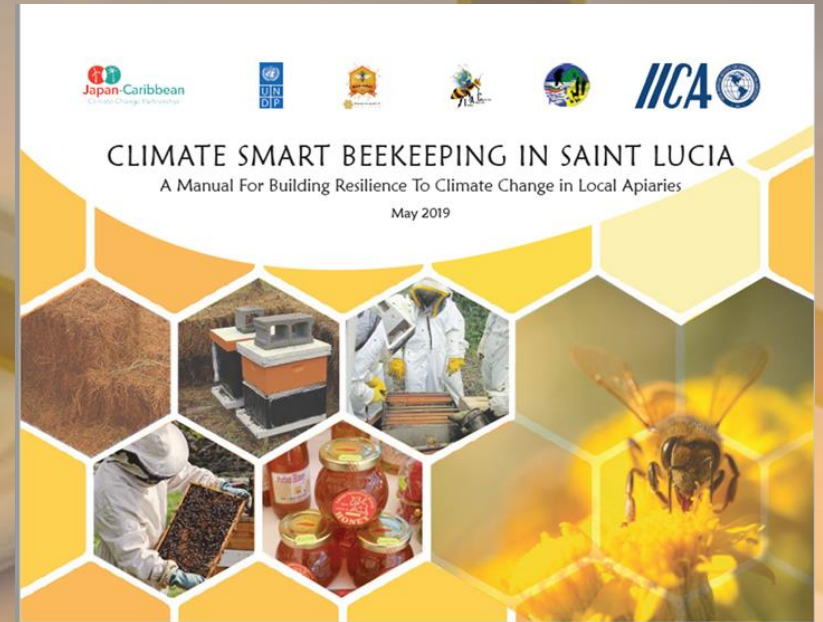
PROJECTS

- IAC selective breeding program.
- Diversifying the Apiculture Sector in Saint Lucia.- Processing and harvesting of Apitoxin and Propolis, development of an apiculture tour - **Funded by GEF SGP UNDP (Saint Lucia)**
- Brasso Seco - Establishment of a queen rearing facility, doubling of existing colony stock, remote hive monitoring and training in apitoxin harvesting. **Funded by GEF SGP UNDP (Trinidad & Tobago)**



PROJECTS

- IAC Apiculture Excursion with Cox & Company.
- Honey testing and pollen analysis.
- Phase one remote hive monitor data analysis.
- ApiCaribe Project
- Bee City Project



FUTURE PROJECTS

To be undertaken by IAC.

- Apiculture a catalyst for sustainable development in small island states (**GEF SGP UNDP and IAC**), to be launched in November 2020.
- Online apiculture training videos (**GEF SGP (TT), BESNet, IAC, ACBO**), to be launched June 2021.

FUTURE PROJECTS

To be undertaken by IAC.

- Launch of Hive Keep AR (Beekeeping App) transoceanic partnership between **Leopard Tech of India and IAC**, to be launched November 2020.
- Phase two remote hive monitor data analysis (**SALCC, IAC**), to be launched January 2021.
- Launch of Regional monthly digital newsletter. (**ACBO, IAC, BfD**) - to be launched in November 2020.



