

ACBO

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN
BEEKEEPERS' ORGANISATIONS

THE CARIBBEAN BEEKEEPING NETWORK

11th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress. Guyana Country Paper.

Building resilience of a beekeeping industry after a natural disaster.



CARIBBEAN
BEEKEEPING
CONGRESS
2022

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Vice Chairman GAS

GUYANA

Located on the South American Coast; part of Guyana Shield 90 % of the country has rich tropical forest (16M Hc)

Total area: 83,000 sq mi (214,970 sq km)

Population (2014 est.): 735,554

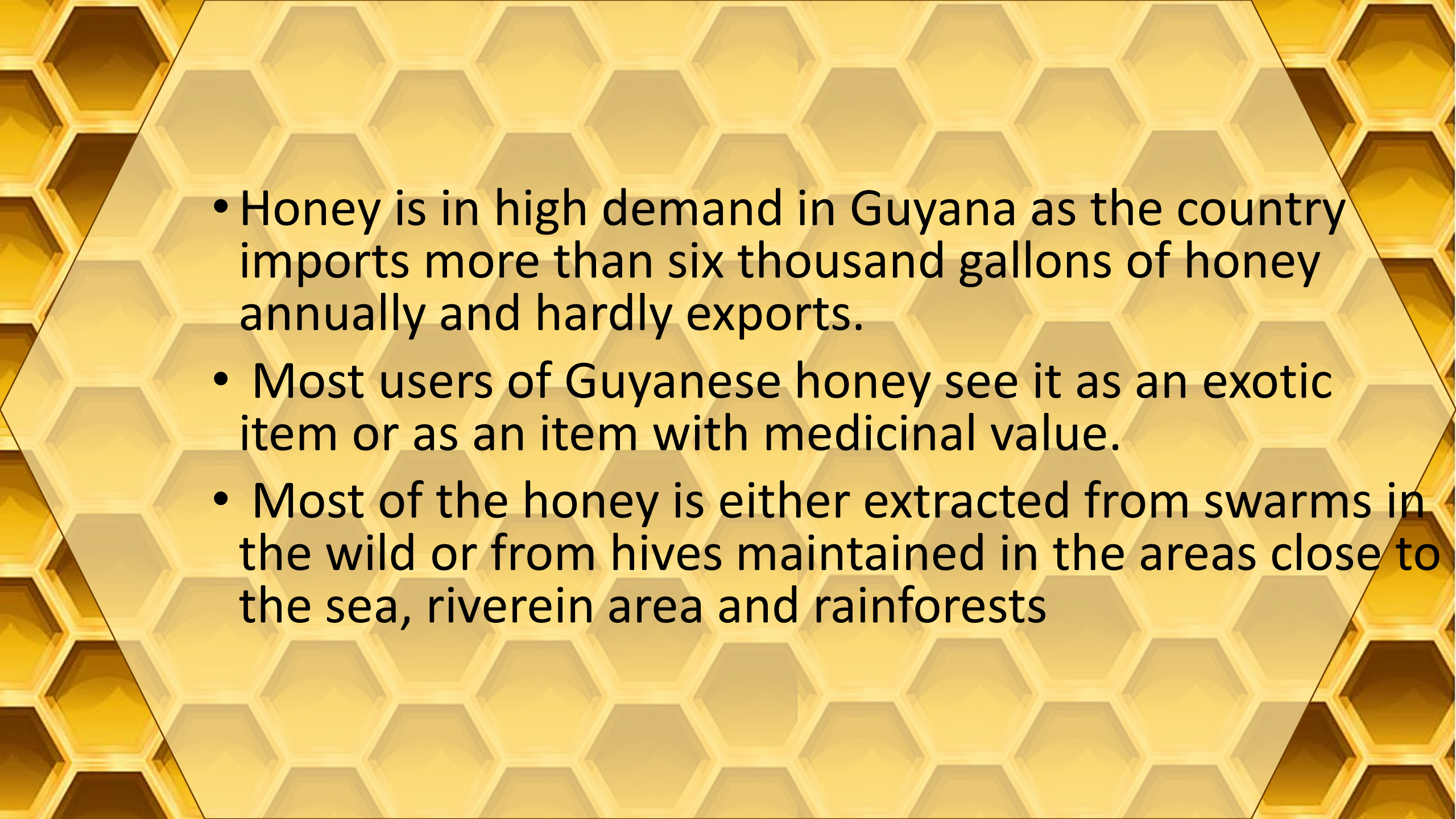
Languages: English (official), Amerindian dialects, Creole.

Monetary unit: Guyanese dollar



History of Beekeeping in Guyana

- Beekeeping in Guyana was a very thriving Business as far back as the 1930's with the national association being a registered organization with about 100 members.
- In the 1970's with the advent of Africanized strain, beekeepers who traditionally husbanded Italian strain saw their numbers dwindled. Poor husbandry and genetic mutation resulted in the dominance of the invading species.
- The defensive Africanized bees had a reputation for being killers and were exterminated as a rule. This approach has been long seen as overly exaggerated. The Africanized bees are hard working but are prone to swarming
- Beekeeping in Guyana is not under threat from CCD or some of the problems like chalk brood and foul brood and pests common in the northern hemisphere

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- The background of the slide is a repeating pattern of hexagons in various shades of yellow and gold, creating a honeycomb effect. The text is centered within a white hexagonal area.
- Honey is in high demand in Guyana as the country imports more than six thousand gallons of honey annually and hardly exports.
 - Most users of Guyanese honey see it as an exotic item or as an item with medicinal value.
 - Most of the honey is either extracted from swarms in the wild or from hives maintained in the areas close to the sea, riverine area and rainforests



ACBO congresses hosted in Guyana

- The 5th Caribbean Beekeeping congress was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and the then Guyana Beekeepers Association in 2008
- The 9th Caribbean Beekeeping congress was hosted by Ministry of Agriculture and Guyana Apicultural Society in 2018 at the Guyana School of Agriculture





Demographic profile of sector

Hives and Bees

Type of bees

1. Africanised Honey Bee,
2. *Melipona forza*,
3. *Melipona Trinitatus*,
4. *Trigona*,
5. Solitary Bees (bumble bee),
6. Tar baby

Types of hives



1. Number of colonies: Approximately 3200
2. Number of beekeeper by sex/age: 330
3. 40% female 60% Male Average age:35
4. Production Levels of various hive. Very short honey flow in 2021 (October to December) 2022 Flow started in September and still in progress



Value-added hive-products

1. Soap
2. Hair dressing
3. Skin care products
4. Elixir
5. Mead/ wines
6. Wax foundation
7. Candles



Successes and Challenges to growth development

- More than 30 persons introduced to beekeeping over the last 2 years
- GAS held virtual meetings quarterly to support beekeepers during COVID 19 Pandemic
- GLDA and POA sponsored a Pest and disease survey conducted in 6 regions
- Removal of Bees in the wild was sponsored by GLDA for persons unable to pay for removal. Over 200 colonies were relocated in this programme
- Guyana Livestock Development Agency provides support to beekeepers in processing wax, school programs in the hinterland regions and register of apiaries.
- Guyana School of Agriculture now offers basic beekeeping course at Certificate level. 46 students successfully passed this course
- Grand Honey shows were held in New Amsterdam in 2021, Agri Tourism Expo 2022 and World Food day 2022
- 10 new apiaries established in the last 2 years
- Grant preparation and Record keeping workshops done with GAS members in September and October 2022



Visit from Mr. Richard Matthias ACBO Chair and Ms. Amy Weeks POA volunteer- Sept 2021



Future Projects

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- **Queen rearing program**
 - **Apiary inspector training**
 - **Lobby government for largescale investment in apiculture**
 - **Land for beekeeping operations**
 - **Extension services for new beekeepers and existing beekeepers to boost production of primary and secondary products**
 - **Collaborate with regional counterparts to combat influx of “adulterated honey”**

Thank you

