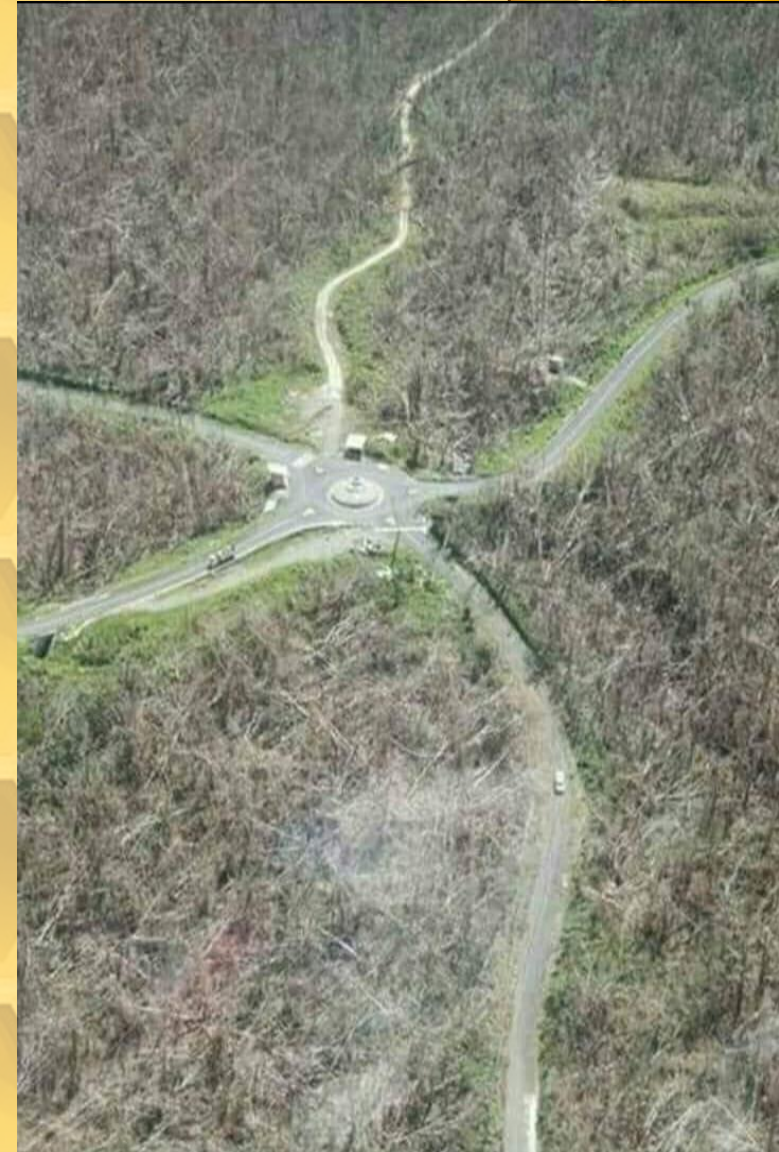


11th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress. – Dominica Country Paper.

Mr. Nathaniel Lovell
Beekeeping in Dominica

Demographic profile of sector

1. **Dominica is still recovering from the impact of hurricane Maria in 2017 since about 90% of the standing vegetative cover of the island were destroyed. There has been a tremendous rejuvenation of the forest but in many areas full forest bloom has been challenged by a proliferation of vines which impede true plant growth and, in some cases, flowering plants**
2. **Our bee population have since then showed signs of steady growth as well as our individual bee-keepers whose individual holding were totally wiped out.**
3. **The Dominica Bee-Keepers Cooperative has led in the apiculture sector with initiatives that include collaboration and support from IICA, FAO, the University of Puerto Rico and the Argentine Embassy. These have assisted in providing us with material, feed and technical assistance as part of the rebuilding process.**



4. Our Cooperative is relatively small with a membership of 38. As a step forward the Cooperative has embarked on establishing a Apiary where it can maintain a stock of bees for future undertaking. The Coop also seeks collaboration with various agencies and parties, regionally and internationally.

5. The Cooperative continues to work with the Vet Division in the Ministry of Agriculture in the advancement of the sector.

1. **Type of bees:** It is believed that we have a mix of primarily European with traces of Italian and German, our bees are generally gentle and well behaved and treatment free.
2. **Number of colonies.** 615
3. **Number of beekeeper by sex/age.**
 1. 46 beekeepers in total
 2. 80% Male
 3. 20% Female



5. Production Levels of various hive. 5.2 gallons per hive.

6. Wax is the primary product from hives that is value added and demand is increasing as it is being used by local businesses primarily in cosmetics and Wellness products. Bee Natural uses local Beeswax in all of their products which include lip balms, deodorant and body creams. Propolis tinctures have been made on a small scale. There is room to grow the value-added products.



Successes and Challenges to growth development

- 1. There is a newly generated interest in beekeeping since hurricane Maria
- 2. Israid, IICA, Government of Dominica, GEF Small Grants, World Bank, Rotary Club has all in some way shape or form support in increasing beekeeping and the interest around beekeeping in Dominica.
- 3. The availability and connection with regional and international beekeepers creating a good learning environment.



Challenges

- 1. Start up cost is high
- 2. Cost of equipment for apiculture is also high because of shipping cost and exchange rate
- 3. Lack of insurance and willingness to fund apiculture operations
- 4. Lack of Land ownership by new beekeepers
- 5. Increasing deforestation due to increase in fires
- 6. Hurricane and storms and the effort involved in constantly rebuilding
- 7. No designated apiculture extension service within ministry of agriculture



Future Projects

- 1. Queen rearing program
- 2. Genetic mapping to better understand our bees
- 3. Tree planting on the west coast of the island
- 4. Bee survey continuation to figure out highest area of production and distribution on island
- 5. Review the importation of foreign honey because of obvious reasons.

