

Adoption of Modern Bee Hive in Arsi Zone of Oromia Region: Determinants and Financial Benefits

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Received 5 March 2015; accepted 22 March 2015; published 27 March 2015

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Abstract

Arsi zone is one of the Oromia regional state's zones with high potential of honey and bees wax production and where there was dissemination of modern beehives. This research was initiated with objectives of quantifying adoption rate of modern beehives and its determinant factors and drawing policy implication for further extension of the technology. The study was conducted in seven districts of Arsi zone and 251 rural beekeepers were interviewed. The average productivity of the modern beehives and local beehives was found to be 19.77 kg/hive and 5.13 kg/hive. The total number of local bee hives possessed by interviewed beekeepers was found to be 1201 while that of modern beehives was found to be 279 hives which shows that the adoption rate is low and if we increase the adoption rate by 50%, the amount of honey harvest will increase by 11,862 kg which is about 5700 kg more than the total honey beekeepers can get from keeping the whole 1201 local hives. Chemical application (herbicides and pesticides), bee predators, lack of knowledge and skill on modern beehives, lack of modern beehive accessories, lack of bee forage and lack of capital were major beekeeping bottlenecks. The result of binary Logit model revealed that the main determinants of adoption are farmyard size, number of local hives beekeepers possessed, training provided, participation on demonstration, wealth status of beekeepers, and participation of beekeepers on nonfarm income sources. Provision of different information towards increasing or improving the saving capacity or culture of beekeepers, provision of adequate and relevant agricultural extension services (such as training on modern beekeeping technologies and experience sharing among beekeepers), provision of credit services to widen the financial bases of poor beekeepers and facilitating access to modern beehives and its accessories especially honey extractor and wax stumper which can increase beehives productivity were the recommendation that was drawn from the output of this research.

Keywords

Adoption, Modern Beehives, Logit Model, Adopters, Non-Adopters, Beekeepers

1. Statement of the Problem

Ethiopia, with around 23.6% of African and 2.1% of the world production, is the leading honey producer in Africa and is one of the ten largest producers in the world [1]. It is also one of the four largest beeswax producing countries in the world following China, Mexico and Turkey. In Ethiopia, beeswax is one of the 12 major exportable agricultural products and an estimated one million farmers are engaged in beekeeping [2]. The country produces about 28,500 tons of honey and 5000 t of beeswax annually [3].

As it is known traditional way of beekeeping is practiced throughout the country in general and in Oromia specifically by hanging the traditional hive over the long trees which is very difficult for management and harvesting or putting the hive under their roof at the outside. This way of beekeeping, especially by hanging over the long tree in the forest is not convenient for female farmers. With all other its problems traditional beehive additional problem of low productivity with production per hive averaging 5 - 6 kg compared to modern beehives which has average production of 15 - 20 kg/hive and even more [3].

By realizing the potential of apiculture subsector and the problem associated to traditional beehive, Ethiopian government tried to introduce different beekeeping technologies to beekeepers. For instance the establishment of beekeeping demonstration stations at different areas like Holeta, Nekemte, and Jimma etc. in 1965 to introduce improved beekeeping technologies (box hives, casting mold, honey extractor, honey presser, smoker, water sprayer, veil, glove etc.) imported from abroad to the beekeepers and to offer beekeeping training for farmers and experts can be mentioned [3].

Oromia region having large share of honey production of the country, with about 41% of total country's production, the regional government disseminated considerable number of modern (box) hives to farmers which are produced by different regional agricultural mechanization research centers and different private microenterprises in 2001/02.

Arsi zone is one of the Oromia regional state's zones with high potential of honey and bees wax production and one of the Zones where there was dissemination of modern beehives on cash and credit basis from AAMRC and private microenterprises and having potential suppliers of the modern hive. However, there is no adequate information on the adoption status and determinant factors such as socioeconomic, economic and socio-psychological factors of the adoption for this technology. Therefore, the socioeconomics, demographic and other technical factors that affect adoption and utilization of this technology has to be identified and this research proposal was initiated for this reason.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to assess the level of adoption of modern beehives with its determinant factors in Arsi zone while the specific objectives of the research are:

- 1) To quantify adoption rate of modern beehives in Arsi zone;
- 2) To identify the determinant factors that affect adoption of modern beehives;
- 3) To draw policy implication for further extension of modern beehives in the study areas.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Definition and Concept of Adoption

Adoption was defined by Feder, *et al.* [4] as degree of use of new innovation by a farmer when he has got full information about the new innovation and its potentials. The author classified adoption of new technology into two as individual and aggregate adoption. Accordingly, they defined Individual adoption as the farmer's decisions to incorporate a new technology into the production process and the aggregate adoption as the process of diffusion of a new technology within a region or population. Furthermore, Rogers and Shoemaker [5] defined technology adoption as the decision made by a farmer to use a new technology as best course of action he ever practiced. Adoption of new technology in agriculture which occurs due to behavioral changes like desirable changes in knowledge, understanding and ability to apply technological information, changes in feeling behavior such as changes in interest, attitudes, aspirations, values and the like; and changes in overt abilities and skills, is determined by many socio-economic factors [6] [7].

Adoption is not a simple and overnight activity, but it is a mental process which an individual farmer (decision-



maker or group of decision maker's family members) goes through for decision-making. To ensure adoption of new innovation the fulfillment of specific economic, technical and institutional conditions are required. From the farmers' perspective, the new technology should be economically more profitable than the existing alternatives. Moreover, the new technology should also be technically easily manageable by small holders and adaptable to the surrounding socio-cultural situations and availability of the new technology and all other necessary inputs to small holders at the right time and place and in the right quantity and quality are necessary conditions [8]. In general adoption is a function of five characteristics of the technology which are relative advantage or profitability, compatibility or riskiness, complexity, triability/divisibility, or initial capital requirements, and observability or availability [5] [9].

2.2. Empirical Review of Determinants for Adoption of Modern Beehives

Past studies have documented some demographic and socioeconomic factors that influenced the adoption of different technologies among smallholder farmers in developing countries. Studies by Croppenstedt *et al.* [10] in Ethiopia and Naseem *et al.* [11] in sub-Saharan Africa identified plot size, previous experience with fertilizer, supply of fertilizer, farm size, amount of rainfall, household size, and the ratio of price of main crop to cost of fertilizer as well as accessed to credit as factors constraining fertilizer demand among arable crop farmers. Feder *et al.* [4] in their research report stated that credit, farm size, risk, labor availability, and human capital, land tenure and education are main factors affecting technological adoption. Cramb [12] inferred that different demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of farm-household are associated with technology adoption such as: age, education and personal characteristics of the household head; size, location and tenure status of the farm; availability of cash or credit for farm investment and access to markets for farm produce; and so on. The study done on adoption and profitability of Kenya Top Bar beehive which may be the first study in Ethiopia, by Melaku [13], evidenced that household farm experience, perception of timely supply of the technology, extension contact, and visit to apiaries are major adoption determinants. Workineh [14], also found that credit, Knowledge on practical activities of the technology, education level of household head, positive perception on modern beehive technologies and apiary visit demonstration were most determinant factors of adoption of improved box hive.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Arsi Administrative zone, South-Eastern part of Oromia Regional State. Arsi zone is one of the 22 zones of the Oromia National Regional State. It is located in the southeastern part of the country. It is also situated between 6°45'N to 8°58'N latitude and 38°32'E to 40°50'E longitude [15]. It has a surface area of about 23,881 km² and characterized by mixed farming system. The variation in its altitude enables Arsi zone to have different agro-ecological zones (mainly five major zones) of which moderately cold one accounts for about 40% of the total followed by cool annual temperature accounting for about 34% of the total area of the zone. In general, the mean annual temperature of the Zone ranges between 20°C - 25°C in the low land and 10°C - 15°C in the central high land [16]. It is also known for its surplus production and knows as wheat-belt of Ethiopia [17].

3.2. Sampling Techniques

Arsi zone is the study area which is purposively selected because of the economic importance of beekeeping, potential dangers of different agricultural practices like deforestation, chemical application for apiary activities and the efforts so far done by governments and nongovernmental bodies. Both multi-stage and purposive sampling techniques were employed where seven districts were selected based on their agro-climatic condition and apiary potentials purposively. Accordingly, Amigna, Bele, Arsi-Robe, Lode-Hetosa, Chole, Merti and Lemu-Bilbilo were selected. Then based on beekeeping potential, two PAs were selected from each district and finally, forty beekeepers from each PA which makes the total respondents 280 were selected for the formal interview. But twenty nine respondents were not contacted because of their absence and two hundred fifty one (251) beekeepers were interviewed.



3.3. Method of Data Collection

Primary data were employed in this research and the data were collected primarily from beekeepers through interview and focus group discussion. Preliminary survey was conducted to assess the potentials of each district in beekeeping and the potential challenges of beekeeping in the study area. At the second stage formal survey was conducted by structured questionnaires. Focus group discussion was also conducted with key informants from beekeepers, development agents and district level beekeeping (livestock) experts.

3.4. Method of Data Analysis

In addition to the descriptive and inferential statistics, econometric model called binary logit was employed. In most adoption studies, the use of dichotomous models like probit and logit, are common as the case of LPM use, the probability may not lie between 0 and 1. Even though there exist statistical similarity between the outputs of logit and probit models, Aldrich and Nelson [18], but logit model is easier to estimate. The objective of binary logit model was to estimate the probability of a household to adopt or not to adopt modern beehive. The dependent variable is dichotomous and therefore, following Gujarati [19], the binary logit model is specified as follows:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \dots + \beta_{12} X_{12} + \varepsilon \quad (1)$$

where;

X_i , is the vector of independent variables representing a number of demographic and socioeconomic variables of i^{th} beekeeper. The dependent variable Y_i , is equal to 1 if the beekeeper adopted modern beehive and zero otherwise. The above Equation (1) can be interpreted as describing the probability that a given beekeeper is deciding to adopt the modern beehive. The value of the parameters, β , measures the marginal impact of a unit change in the explanatory variables on the probability of technology adoption.

The above linear model can be transferred into a cumulative probability function as follow, mainly to avoid the potential errors of having the predicted values, Y_i falling outside the (0, 1) range.

$$\rho_i = F(X_i \beta) \quad (2)$$

If the cumulative probability function $F(\cdot)$ is logistic, then we have the logit model of the form:

$$\rho_i = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-X_i \beta}} \quad (3)$$

The marginal effect of a particular variable on the probability that a particular household decide to adopt is given by:

$$\frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial X_i} = f(X \beta) \beta'_k \quad (4)$$

where $f(\cdot)$ is the logistic density function given by:

$$f(X' \beta) = \frac{e^{-X' \beta}}{(1 + e^{-X' \beta})^2} \quad (5)$$

3.5. Hypotheses and Definition of Variables

Age of respondents (Age): It is hypothesized that age negatively affects adoption.

Educational background: categorical 0 = illiterate, 1 = literate

Credit use: use of credit can solve problem of capital shortage for the investment and is expected to enhance adoption of the modern beehive (dummy; 1 = user and 0 otherwise). In this case since the credit from government bodies is ear tagged for agricultural inputs like chemical fertilizer and seed, only credit utilization from other sources was considered

Number of local beehive: this variable is also expected to have positive impact on adoption probability of the technology assuming as farmers saw the little advantages from local hive they may think of improving their advantage from the beekeeping activity (continuous count).

Sex of respondents: being female is assumed to expose to different cultural discrimination from large society



and excluded from different extension services and have negative impact on adoption probability (dummy; 1 = male and 0 = female)

Training on beekeeping: it is dummy variable; 1 = yes 0 otherwise

House stead land size (farm yard in ha): unless beekeeping activity is not commercialized so far the farmers are expected to practice apiary in their farm yard/house stead and as the farm yard size increases it is expected to have more probability of adoption (continuous).

Family labor (man equivalent): it is expected that as family size increases the adoption probability increase to utilize the family labor (continuous number).

Livestock (TLU) is expected to have either negative or positive impact

Farm size (ha): it is expected that farm size of the farmer enhance the adoption

Participation on nonfarm income source (it is dummy variable; 1 = yes 0 otherwise):

Participation on demonstration of modern beehives (it is dummy variable; 1 = yes 0 otherwise): it is hypothesized that it has positive effect.

Total Income: it is the sum of all income in birr that a beekeeper gets from sale of crop, livestock, honey and other nonfarm sources. It is continuous variable measured in Ethiopian birr.

Type of house of household (htype dummy, 1 = if house is thatched roof; 0 otherwise).

4. Result and Discussion

4.1. Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

From the survey result, majority of the respondents which is about 91% of the respondents, are male headed and the rest 9% are female headed. Around 22% of the female headed and 21% male headed households (HH) were adopters but the chi-square value is insignificant (**Table 2**). The HH's average age was 40.45 years while the mean age for adopters and non-adopters were 43.35 and 39.86 respectively with significant mean difference at 5%. The result shows that the beekeepers in the study areas getting older and more resources are in the hands of older farmers. The increase in adoption of technology with age may be due to the reason that most resources are in the hands of older and most young farmers have no enough back yards for beekeeping and are living around the town in most cases. Total average family size of sample respondents was 7.45 and it was 7.71 and 7.38 persons for adopters and non adopters respectively (**Table 1**).

Farming experience is one of the variables that was considered but it was found to be insignificant in affecting the adoption of the technology under consideration but with slight difference between mean of the adopters (22.84) and non-adopters (30.20) years. Educational background of household head was also found to be significant (**Table 2**).

4.2. Resource Ownership and Income Sources of the Sample Households

Resource ownership of the household is one of the determinant factors in adoption of a given technology. In this study the house type owned by the households, livestock possession, land holding, total bee colony possession, and others were considered for their effect on adoption probability. Accordingly, house type possessed by HH was found to be one of the significant factors where, the chi-square value is found to be significant at 1% probability level.

Farm animals have crucial roles in the rural economy. In general, they are sources of draught power, food such as milk and meat, cash, and means of transport both for human beings and agricultural produces. In addition to these, animal dung is used as fuel and organic fertilizer. Moreover, in the study area, farm animals are used as a measure of wealth. The household average tropical live stock unit was 11.00TLU with 14.20 (1.33) TLU and 10.10 (0.59) TLU for adopters and non-adopters respectively and mean difference significant at 5% probability level.

In addition to this, oxen possession was also found to be more affecting factor for adoption of technology which is significant at 1%. Similarly, farmers having more farm land adopted the technology in a better way. The result from **Table 1** shows that the mean land holding for adopters and non-adopters were 4.98 ha and 3.29 ha respectively with mean difference significant at 1% probability level. And similarly, even though it is not statistically significant, the mean house stead (back yard) land which is in most cases used for beekeeping purposes was found to be larger for adopters which is 0.31 hectare and 0.30 hectare while the combined mean was found



Table 1. Demographic and socioeconomic characteristic of respondents (continuous variables).

	Mean			t-value
	Adopters	Non-Adopters	Combined	
Age	44.27 (1.75)	39.55 (0.85)	4.59 (0.78)	2.55**
Family size	7.78 (0.50)	7.36 (0.23)	7.45 (0.21)	0.85
Farming experience	24.04 (1.81)	29.94 (10.04)	28.66 (7.84)	0.31
Land holding	4.98 (0.60)	3.29 (0.17)	3.66 (0.19)	3.78***
House stead land	0.31 (0.04)	0.30 (0.02)	0.31 (0.01)	0.076
Land under beekeeping	0.01 (0.005)	0.002 (0.001)	0.004 (0.001)	2.31*
Livestock (TLU)	14.20 (1.33)	10.10 (0.59)	11.00 (0.56)	3.09**
Bee colony	9.78 (2.24)	4.76 (0.40)	5.86 (0.59)	3.58***
Market access (main)	12.27 (1.20)	12.33 (0.65)	12.32 (0.57)	0.05
Distance from DU	3.11 (0.33)	2.65 (0.18)	2.75 (0.16)	1.21
Distance to main road	4.02 (0.56)	4.06 (0.33)	4.05 (0.28)	0.06
Nearest market access	4.24 (0.46)	3.80 (0.23)	3.9 (0.21)	0.88
Annual honey production	122.51 (39.69)	24.99 (2.04)	46.36 (9.14)	4.58***
Annual honey sale	4165.09 (939)	965.86 (114)	1666.89 (238)	5.92***
Honey production/local hive	3.64 (0.63)	5.55 (0.23)	5.13 (0.23)	3.53**
Live Stock sale	3416.36 (613)	2683.55 (282)	2844.13 (258)	1.18
Crop sale	19497.45 (3836)	8794 (912)	11139 (1131)	4.03***
Annual nonfarm income	3428.36 (929.57)	1176 (221)	1669.39 (272)	3.50**
Oxen number	4.25 (0.35)	2.80 (0.13)	3.12 (0.13)	4.75***
Total annual income	30507.27 (4495)	13619 (1151)	17320 (1400)	5.25**
Share of honey sale	0.181 (0.027)	0.11 (0.010)	0.124 (0.01)	2.96**
Honey harvest/modern hives	19.77 (1.00)	-	-	-
Share of crop	0.562 (0.04)	0.62 (0.02)	0.61 (0.02)	1.31
Share of LS	0.15 (0.026)	0.193 (0.014)	0.183 (0.012)	1.52
Share of nonfarm income	0.11 (0.025)	0.081 (0.013)	0.087 (0.012)	0.97

***, **, and * show the level of significance at 1, 5 and 10%; The numbers in brackets are standard errors of mean; Source: own survey result.

to be 0.31 hectare (**Table 1**). The size of land used for the purpose of beekeeping was another variable that affect the adoption probability and in this case adopters of modern beehive allocated more land for beekeeping purpose. Accordingly, adopters allotted 0.01 ha while non adopters allotted 0.002 ha of land.

Crop production, livestock rearing, non farm income sources like pity trade, and others like flour grain mill and beekeeping are main sources of income in the study areas. The major income share of the sampled households comes from the sale of crop which accounts for about 61% of total income followed by livestock and livestock output sale which is around 18% of the income share (**Table 1**). When we see contribution of income by different sources of HHs among adopters and non adopters, share of sale of honey for adopters group is significantly greater than that of non adopters group with t-value significant at 5% probability level (**Table 1**).

4.3. Access of Sample Households to Different Service Providing Centers and Sources of Modern Beehives for Beekeepers

There are different service providing centers to the beekeepers (farmers) of which their impact on modern bee



Table 2. Demographic and socioeconomics characteristics of respondents (Categorical and Nominal variables).

		Adopter	Non-adopters	Total	χ^2	Asymp. Sig.
Sex of respondents:	Male	50	178	228	0	0.98
	Female	5	18	23		
Credit use	Yes	6	35	41	1.52	0.22
	(Formal)	No	49	210		
Credit Use	Yes	16	59	75	0.021	0.89
	(Informal)	No	36	176		
Marital status	Single	3	11	14	1.44	0.7
	Married	5	277			
	Divorced	0	1	1		
	Widowed	0	4	4		
Educational	1 Illiterate	8	32	40	10.41	0.065 [*]
	2 read/write	8	18	26		
	3 primary	14	79	93		
	4 secondary	18	58	76		
	5 post second	6	9	15		
	6 others	1	0	1		
House type	1 thatched roof	5	86	91	26.75	0.000***
	2 corrugated iron	11	11	22		
	3 both	36	102	139		
Extension contact	1 Every day	13	38	51	2.71	0.57
	2 every week	27	82	109		
	3 every month	6	23	29		
	4 sometimes	8	47	55		
	5 no contact	1	6	7		
Train on Modern BH	yes	25	23	48	31.57	0.000***
	No	30	173	203		
Demonstration on MBH	yes	41	59	100	35.4	0.000***
	No	14		137		

Source, own survey result.

hive can be observed directly or indirectly. Of these factors, access to main market, access to development unit and distance to main road are the major ones. In addition to these, access to credit service providing centers were also considered and access to formal credit providers have no significant effect on adoption probability while the informal one has effect. This is may be due to the fact that there is less attention given to the sector which geared all the credit from formal sources towards other sectors such as the purchase of seed and fertilizer and other livestock sectors like small scale fattening as it can be seen from [Table 3](#). Furthermore, the extension contact rate did not have any significant impact on the adoption probability of modern beehive and this is may be due to the fact that most of the time development agents do not consider the beekeeping activity in their day to day activities which may be due to policy focus area ([Table 2](#)). But demonstration and training given on modern beehive utilization, managements like harvesting, wax stumping and etc have significant impact (chi-square sig. at 1% ([Table 2](#))).



Table 3. Honey and honey products marketing and related problems of the respondents.

No.	Description	Number of respondents'	Percent
1	Sell at village	212	84.5
2	Sell at local market	178	70.9
3	Sell to Cooperatives	8	3.2
4	Sell to local honey collectors (Traders)	109	56.6
5	Sell to consumers	248	98.8
6	Sell to local "tej" makers	76	30

Source: own survey.

Beekeepers owned their modern beehives from different sources. The majority of the beekeepers bought their modern beehives from the former Asela rural technology promotion center, the current Asela Agricultural mechanization research center which accounts for 48 (81.36%) of the users and only five (8.5%) bought from microenterprises.

4.4. Hive Product Marketing and Related Problems

Even though there is almost no respondent who reported the problem of marketing and market access problem during survey, there is no broad option of market in the study areas. As it can be understood from the survey result, the major market destinations of the areas are village marketing among rural households, local markets, and cooperatives (with very small percent 3.2%). The beekeepers have no specific customer who buys their produce and they sell to local honey collectors (traders), consumers both from rural and urban areas and local "tej" makers. Accordingly, 84%, 70% and 3.2% of the respondents sell their honey at village, local markets and to honey and honey product cooperatives respectively. Similarly, 98.8%, 56.6% and 30.3% of the respondent's produces were sold to consumers, to local honey collectors (traders) and local "tej" makers respectively (**Table 3**).

4.5. Modern Beehive Adoption

In general out of 251 respondents, only 55 or around 22% are adopters of modern beehive and the rest 196 (78%) are non adopters. Out of the total respondents, 59 (nearly 24%) of the respondents experienced the use of modern beehives but 4 (6.80%) of them dis-adopted the technology because of different reasons, mainly due to absence of accessories 4 (100%) and other related reasons like lack of skill, and bee absconding problems (**Table 4**).

Information sources evidences that remote districts have good potential of beekeeping as most of the time they do have large amount of natural forests. But from the above **Table 5** we can see that as we move from the center, Asela, the number of modern beehive that beekeepers are using is decreasing and this potential resource is not being utilized by modernizing beekeeping technologies. The three districts having better modern beehives, Lemu-Bilbilo, Arsi-Robe and Lode-Hetosa are all those districts found within the radius of 100 km and less from Asela. While Chole and Merti and those found at far (remote) distance from the Center.

4.6. Major Constraints of Beekeeping Sub Sector in the Study Area

A number of beekeeping subsector constraints were assessed in this study for the areas. In general the major constraints were hypothesized and the respondents were requested to rank those constraints according to their perception (**Table 6**). Accordingly, chemicals like herbicides and different pesticides application for crop production was ranked by 61% of the respondents as the first constraints to expand or even to continue with the same rate of the current beekeeping activities in the study areas. Predators like ants, spiders, lizards, and different birds were ranked as the second most constraints by about 50% of the respondents while lack of skill and knowledge of modern beehives manage was the third major constraint. The fourth, fifth and sixth major constraints were lack of necessary accessories (like extractor, wax stumbers, bee smokers), lack of additional bee feed (forages), and lack of capital respectively. In this regard change in weather conditions as there is high deforestation, affects beekeeping by reducing flora.

Beekeepers of the area suggested a solution for each problem which can be applied by different concerned



Table 4. Reasons for dis-adopting modern beehive.

No.	Reasons	Respondents in number and percent
1	1. Absence of beehive accessories	4 (100%)
2	2. Lack of skill on managing modern beehives	3 (75%)
3	3. Bee absconding from hive	1 (25%)
4	4. Market problem for hive product	1 (25%)

Source: own survey 2009.

Table 5. Beehives adoption by district.

	Districts	Continue using modern beehive		Total
		No	Yes	
1	Aminga	32	8	40
2	Bele	30	6	36
3	Chole	36	1	37
4	Lemu-bilbilo	17	14	31
5	Lode-hetosa	23	11	34
6	Merti	33	1	34
7	Arsi-robe	25	14	39
	Total	196	55	251

Source: AAMRC survey, 2009.

Table 6. Major apiary constraints of the study areas.

	Rank of the constraint	% of respondents given the rank
1	Chemical application (herbicides and pesticides)	61%
2	Bee predators	50%
3	Lack of knowledge and skill on modern beehives	40%
4	Lack of modern beehive accessories	35%
5	Lack of bee forage (additional bee feeds)	32%
6	Lack of capital	49%

Source: own survey, 2002.

stakeholders. For example, majority of the farmers suggested timely application of herbicides before the flowering of crops and weeds. This can minimize the death of honey bee as bees would not go for the search of their pollen while there is no flower on the crop/weed. For the second problem proper beehive management skills and awareness must be created through practical training specially for the protection of different ants, lizards and spiders. But there are seasonal birds which harm the hive seriously and very difficult for the beekeepers to protect their hives. But some beekeepers tried their best by availing some feeds and water around the hive so that the bees should not go far and escape from such bee eating birds.

The gap in lack of awareness and skill can be fulfilled by training by beekeeping experts at different levels. Lack of accessories, the fourth major problem should be solved through availing such accessories through credit facility, organizing and awareness creation of beekeepers to buy those technologies in group, availing enough number of technologies at least at Peasant Association level for borrowing and so on. It is because of this problem most beekeepers who, even started using modern beehive, dis-adopted the technology and most beekeepers miss at least one season harvest. Shortage of bee forage was the last ranked constraint which is the major cause for bee swarm absconding especially during the dry season ([Table 7](#)).



Table 7. Reasons for not adopting modern beehives along districts.

No.	Reason not using	District							
1	Lack of awareness	Amgna	B	Chole	Lilo	Lsa	Mert	A/Rbe	Total (%)
2	Lack of capital	25	19	26	9	20	25	25	20 (57.37)
3	Non availability	16	18	8	10	3	6	16	77 (30.68)
4	Other	11	21	31	6	10	12	14	39 (15.54)
5			3	1	0	0	0	0	0

Source: AMRC survey, 2009.

4.7. Modern Beehives Utilization Problem

Table 7 shows the modern beehive utilization constraints by districts and from the survey result table it is clear that lack of awareness about the benefits of modern beehives over the local ones was found to be the most prominent (Conspicuous) reason/bottleneck for non utilization of modern beehives which is claimed by about 57% of the respondents. Lack of enough capital for investment and non availability of the technologies around the areas were the second and third problems in technology adoption of the areas (**Table 7**).

4.8. Major Beekeeping Practices and Labor Division in Beekeeping by Sme Respondent

4.8.1. Labor Division in Beekeeping, Honeybee Feeding and Bee Forage Planting Practices

From the survey result it can be seen that beekeepers are taking different measures in order to feed their honey bees' warm specially during the dry season when it becomes difficult for worms bees to find flower from the forest. Therefore, majority of beekeepers (around 78%) feed their bees by providing some feed substances like sugar, flour of beans, chickpea and pea and water while considerable number of beekeepers (around 31%) plant flowering plants or trees around their home which flower during dry season (**Table 8**).

There are different activities to be done in beekeeping business like: swarm catching, transferring, hive inspection, honeybee feeding, honey harvesting, honey extraction and mating. In this study a majority of management of beehive is mostly done by husbands (about 93%). It can be understood that in most modern beehive adopter cases, the management is being done by females (wives) that is 13 females out of 55 adopters participated in beehive management practices (**Table 8**). This shows that how adopting modern beehive breaks the status quo that beekeeping is job of males as it also shows that modern beehive management is easier than local hive's management for female. But activities like hive inspection honey bee feeding, and mating are done by females, mostly by wives.

4.8.2. Honey Harvesting, Hive Shading Construction, Wax Stumping and Predators Protection Practices

As it is known the traditional way of beekeeping does not need any special method of honey harvesting mechanism and the beekeepers simply take away the crude honey and sell increasing its value most of the time without extracting or sorting the honey using their hands. Mostly the comb is extracted as wax and used for sale by "tej" makers. But modern beehive adopters use modern extractor to harvest honey. As it is discussed above lack of modern beehive accessories were the most problem in the area and majority of the operators (more than 67%) get honey extractor from bureau livestock development and marketing agency by borrowing and only 5.45% own their own extractor (**Table 9**).

Regarding shading and construction practices all non adopters have their hives hung under their roofs and no special shading was needed. But for operators, almost all of them constructed shade least during the summer to protect their hives from the damage by rain. In this regard hive bathing, is the most serious problem for traditional type because traditionally most beekeeping their hives are on trees in the forest. Colony absconding was found to be more serious problem for traditional beehives type because hives inspection, cleaning and protection from different predators is changing all the hives are in the forest and even those in the compound of the beekeepers are not in the protected areas.



Table 8. Honey bee feeding mechanism and labor division in beekeeping practice.

	No.	Feeding mechanism		respondents' percent		% of "yes" of total
				Adopters	Non-Adopters	
1		Planting bee forage	Yes	21	56	30.70%
			No	34	140	
2		Providing other feed like sugar and flour	Yes	47	149	77.70%
			No	8	47	
3		Take no action to feed honey bee	Yes	4	34	15.10%
			No	51	162	
4		Transfer hive to other areas during dry seasons	Yes	0	5	2%
			No	55	191	
5		Husband manage	Yes	53	180	92.8
			No	2	16	
6		Wife manage	Yes	13	37	19.9
			No	42	159	
7		Daughter manage	Yes	0	6	2.4
				55	190	
8		Son manage		3	9	4.8
				52	187	

Source: own survey result.

Table 9. Sources of honey extractor and wax stumpers for modern beehive adopters.

No.	Source of extractor and wax stumper	Extractor	Stumper
1	Having own	3 (5.45%)	2 (3.64) locally made
2	Borrowing extractor from bureau of agriculture	37 (67.27)	50 (90.91)
3	Borrowing extractor from NGOs	2 (3.64)	3 (5.45)
4	Have extractor in group	7 (12.73)	0

Source: own survey data.

4.9. Sensitivity Analysis of Adoption Level on Volume of Production and Income from Hive Product

According to the survey result, the average productivity of the modern beehives and local beehives in the study area was found to be 19.77 kg/hive and 5.13 kg/hive with 1.00 and 3.65 standard error respectively. The total number of local type of beehives (bees colonized by local beehive type) possessed by interviewed beekeepers was found to be 1201 while the total number of modern beehives (bees colony colonized in modern beehives) was found to be 279 hives which shows that the adoption rate is 21.95% and If we increase the adoption rate and shift the number of local beehives by 50% *i.e.*, if number of local beehives decreases by 600 and that of modern hives increases by the same amount, the amount of honey harvest will increase by 11,862 kg which is about 5700 kg more than the total honey that beekeepers can get from the whole 1201 local hives (Table 1). If we take the average price of the honey per kilogram of money at the time of survey which was 50 Birr/kg, the total income also could increase by 285043.5 Birr if adoption rate increased by 50%.

4.10. Analysis of Determinants of Adoption of Modern Beehives

A total of fourteen (14) explanatory variables were included in econometric model (logit model) analysis. The





Table 12. Results of multicollinearity test: Contingency coefficient for dummy variables.

	Sex	Nonfarm	Trainbee	Htype	Demo	Educ	Crdtother
Sex	1						
Participation on Nonfarm income	-0.0123	1					
Participation on beekeeping training	0.0347	0.1112	1				
House type owned	-0.0477	-0.0385	-0.1591	1			
Participation on Demonstration of beekeeping	0.0328	0.1856	0.2968	-0.1567	1		
Educational background of HH	-0.0656	-0.0295	-0.0004	0.0642	0.0294	1	
Credit use from informal sources	0.0867	0.1056	-0.0091	0.0327	0.1621	0.053	1

Source: AAMRC survey, 2010.

Table 13. Results of binary logit estimation for adoption of modern beehives.

Variables	Coef.	Std. Err.	P > z	dy/dx
Age	0.0349092	0.0199142	0.080*	0.0033645
Sex	-0.280984	0.8082853	0.728	-0.0296266
Participation on Nonfarm	0.8902084	0.4277984	0.037*	0.100252
Credit use from informal sources	-0.0459638	0.4292751	0.915	-0.0043981
Farmyard land size	1.912804	1.133338	0.091*	0.1843533
Training on beekeeping	1.652521	0.4365281	0.000***	0.2279065
House type owned	-1.668666	0.5002083	0.001**	-0.1414244
Participation on beekeeping demonstration	1.359769	0.4463175	0.002**	0.1495546
Family labor in Man equivalent	-0.0993451	0.1068699	0.353	-0.0095747
Square root of number local beehive	-0.4228914	0.2810261	0.132	-0.0407577
Square root of landholding	0.6768429	0.3792706	0.074*	0.0652331
Square root of livestock in TLU	0.0152933	0.2399343	0.949	0.0014739
Natural logarithm of income	0.3240982	0.2674908	0.226	0.0312361
Educational status of HH	-0.6572071	0.5408751	0.224	-0.0753804
_cons	-5.789139	2.646268	0.029*	

Marginal effects after logit; $Y = \text{Pr}(\text{usingnow})$ (predict) = 0.10805429; (*) (**) dy/dx is for discrete change of dummy variable from 0 to 1, * = significant at 10 percent; ** = significant at 5 percent; *** = significant at 1 percent.

corrugated iron to thatched roof house type has negative effect on adoption probability which is significant at 5% probability level. The marginal effect revealed that, the change from corrugated to thatched roof house type will change the probability of adoption by 14.59 percent. The possible explanation could be the fact that adopters are getting sufficient income from sell of hive products to improve their life standards. Participation of beekeepers household head on nonfarm income activities is also significant (10% probability). The change from participant to nonparticipant of a given adopter will reduce probability of adoption by 10.34 percent ([Table 13](#)).

5. Conclusion and Policy Implications

This paper examined the adoption rate and determinants of decision's of beekeepers to adopt modern beehives in Arsi zone. Although the government of Ethiopia gives great attention to the beekeeping sub sector to promote modern beekeeping technologies, but rate of adoption and dissemination of the technology is found to be very minimal.

Adoption of modern beehives has very significant effect on hives productivity as it can be seen clearly from



sensitivity analysis part of the document and beekeeping can also be used as one of income diversifying mechanism and even can be the basic occupation for most rural dwellers. But the number of beekeepers started using modern beehives (numbers of adopters) is almost insignificant and they are still using local beekeeping technologies. The main determinants of adoption are farmyard size, number of local hives beekeepers possessed, training provision and participation on training, wealth status of beekeepers, and participation of beekeepers on nonfarm income sources. Even though almost all beekeepers know the presence of modern beehives, they did not adopt because of different reasons. For instance, the result of survey from descriptive statistics shows that beekeepers do not have enough awareness on advantages of the technologies that enable them to use modern beehives. Lack of capital and non availability of modern beehives and its packages accessories (honey harvesting and processing equipments like wax-stumper, queen excluders, honey extractor, bee smoker and others) around the beekeepers are also among the other major problems. As beekeeping is not as such commercialized there is no such huge production per beekeeper in these areas, the whole bee products are sold around their own vicinity and no report of transportation difficulties problem. The result of econometric model also clearly indicates that participation of beekeepers on demonstration and training of modern beehives were among the most significant determinants of adoption. Therefore, based on the above conclusion the following policy implications and area specific solution can be drawn:

- Provision of different information towards increasing or improving the saving capacity or culture of beekeepers as saving increases the wealth of beekeepers and the wealth category of the beekeepers in turn have effect on determining adoption probability of modern beehives.
- Provision of adequate and relevant agricultural extension services (such as training on modern beekeeping technologies and demonstration and beekeepers to beekeepers experience sharing) to beekeepers. Training should also be given by giving attention to wise way (timely application) of using different chemicals specially herbicides to minimize the death of honey bees.
- Provision of credit services to beekeepers to widen the financial bases of poor beekeepers. Beekeepers can use the loan to buy modern beehives and access to modern beehives accessories like honey extractor, smokers, brush, gloves, wax stumper and others. Baiting
- Facilitating access to modern beehives and its accessories especially honey extractor and wax stumper which can increase beehives productivity which in turn can positively affects beekeeper's capacity of adoption.

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Appendix I. Conversion factor used to estimate TLU.

No	Types of Animals	TLU
1	camels	1.25
2	cattle	1.00
3	sheep	0.10
4	goats	0.10
5	horses	0.80
6	mule	0.70
7	Donkey	0.50
8	Chickens	0.01

Source: FAO, 1987; FAO, 1986b.

Appendix II. Conversion factors to drive man-equivalent.

Age group (yrs)	Male	Female
<10	0.0	0.0
10 - 13	0.2	0.2
14 - 16	0.5	0.4
17 - 50	1.0	0.8
>50	0.7	0.5

Source: Stork, *et al.*, 1991.

