

**World Bee day
20th May 2018**



Now is the time more than ever that the earth needs to regain and maintain the greenery that it has left with her and to do so, it requires way more than just soil, water and sunshine. Cross pollination is one of the major sources of providing greenery and sustainability to the plants to survive and thrive and this process is accelerated by the presence of bees in the environment.

Bees to most of us have only been the source and producer of the precious nectar, honey. But coming to read and learn about it, they can do a lot more than that. Bees play a vital role in increasing the crop yield and increasing the nutrition content of different food groups such as potatoes, pepper, coffee, pumpkins, carrot and almonds, to name a few. It would be nearly impossible to achieve the golden phrase of 'world without hunger' in the absence of bees.

This is however in grave danger, as the reports by the United Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature show an alarming decrease in the population of bees and other essential pollinators. Time and again, they get exposed to new diseases and harmful pests. Climate change has also contributed significantly to this depletion.

Thus to aid and promote the survival of bees and their diverse role in enriching and saving the world of its hunger, The United Nations has observed 20th May as the World Bee day. This day has been dedicated especially to give due recognition to the role of bees in the environment and give them their due credit.

This day is designated by the United Nations to bring on board, the governments and the civil societies of the world to play their part in protecting the bees ensuring their survival. Activities such as growing bee friendly plant, purchase of raw honey, avoiding use of pesticides and chemicals for treating plants and garden, though small, but can play a vital role in ensuring the presence of bees around us.

India has a vast range of flora and fauna across the country especially in hilly and tribal belts. There are 4 species of honey bee in the world and all of them are present in India. The species are (1) Apis cerana indica, (2) Apis florea, (3) Apis dorsata, (4) Apis mellifera. The production of honey depends on the species as well as the management and the bee flora. Bee keepers in Australia get an yield of over 100 kg per hive and the Canadian averages are about 60-70 kgs. Indian averages in the best honey producing areas of Punjab and Haryana are about 30-40 kg. The harvesting season in India is mainly from December to March.

INDIA'S EXPORT TO MAJOR COUNTRIES:

Country	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Qty	US\$ Mill	Qty	US\$ Mill	Qty	US\$ Mill
United States	24419.32	72.21	33649.63	95.44	39088.04	68.02
United Arab Emirates	748.43	2.5	859.37	2.69	1269.16	3.11
Saudi Arabia	2361.43	6.46	1113.65	2.79	770.72	1.88
others	2049.34	6.2	2554.39	7.73	3927.56	10.51
Total	29,578.52	87.37	38,177.04	108.65	45,055.48	83.52

Source: DGCIS

In lieu of this day, APEDA urges its exporters and everyone, to act as catalysts in this humble process of saving the bees of world by making a few changes in their daily life activities and help make world a better place to live.