

# Integrated Landscape Management to Enhance Food Security and Ecosystem Resilience in Nigeria



## Benue beekeepers thriving against all odds

In the remote Local government areas of Buruku and Obi in Benue State, more than 2,000 smallholder farmers, mostly women and youth, have taken up bee farming (apiculture) and honey production as an alternative source of livelihood.

Previously, beekeeping was not a popular source of income in Buruku and Obi due to the lack of knowledge and experience on how to properly farm bees.

The intervention was part of the livelihood component of the Project. The approach to this intervention was beneficiary driven where the project team sits and discusses with the beneficiaries what they can do as an alternative source of income.

## What approach did the team take to achieve the impact

**Benue State one of the implementing States choose to undertake beekeeping which highly impacted their lives positively.**

By supporting beekeeping livelihoods, the project seeks to increase income for rural farmers, while promoting the exchange of good beekeeping techniques in order to increase biodiversity protection. Through the project, farmers in Benue State have been supplied beekeeping kits and are provided with training in modern beekeeping techniques. This support has helped communities in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts.



Photos: ©UNDP



## What impact did the effort have and on/for whom?



**Gender Impacts:** One of the most difficult challenges was persuading community members that beekeeping is not solely an occupation for men. Beekeeping has traditionally been both labor-intensive and dangerous.

“We used to think that beekeeping was a man’s job, but women in our community have now been trained and are confident to start using this as means of livelihoods. This project has deepened our knowledge and has helped provide information on the best practices available for women in our village” shared Nguhemmen Aondoseer a beekeeper from Mbajor village.

Modern beehives and handling techniques have taken the sting out of the job, and women have learnt that there is nothing to be afraid of. “This project has changed our lives” Nguhemmen continued.

“We were provided with five beehives, a beekeeping start-up kit, consisting of a beekeeping suit, smoker, knives, and brushes. Now we have 4 more beehives and are planning to expand”.



## What are the main lessons that were learned?

Communities should be allowed to choose income generation intervention so they can be committed to sustaining it. If they choose it, they will be committed to ensure that it thrives and sustained

