



## FAO's beekeeping initiative TANZANIA

The Food and Agricultural Organisation's **Making Every Voice Count for Adaptive Management (MEV-CAM) Initiative** uses participatory videos to understand, highlight and disseminate best practices from south-south countries. One of the best practices the MEV-CAM Initiative has highlighted is the lessons learned from the Hadzabe Community in Tanzania, who share the benefits of best practice beekeeping in Mkalama District of Tanzania's Singida Region.

**The Resilient Food Systems programme under Reversing of Land Degradation Trends and Increasing Food Security in Degraded Ecosystems of Semi-arid Areas of Central Tanzania (LDFS)** project seeks to support food production and security (in terms of quantity, accessibility, and quality) in Tanzania. This entails addressing drivers for unsustainable land management and land degradation as well as biodiversity loss and support adaptation strategies to climate variability in the agricultural sector, fostering small farmer's and pastoralist's resilience to

climate and other shocks. The project focuses on geographic areas with high levels of poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition of children under 5 years old, land degradation and low average annual rainfall, as well as areas where there might be conflicts among communities related to access to and use of crop, grass and forest land and water resources. It currently covers twenty-two villages in five districts in semi-arid areas of Mainland Tanzania, including Kondo, Nzega, Magu, Chemba and Mkalama District.

Munguli village in Mkalama District is home to the Hadzabe Community. This indigenous community survive almost exclusively off traditional means of foraging, and thus are very dependent on the forest for their livelihood. Through the LDFS project, the Hadzabe community have been enabled to develop a land use and participatory plan of the forest. "The plan will enable the community to invest in their forest by setting up beehives but will also have long term benefits by protecting their forests for future use." – Joseph Phillip Kihale, National Project Coordinator (GEF-RFS-LDFS).



Photo: ©Kelvin Trautman



## Enhancing Honey Harvesting with the Hadzabe Community in Munguli Village

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**Traditionally in the past, the beehives were in the hollow trunks of the trees in the forest. Harvesting the honey meant two people would have to climb the tree without protective clothing, often getting stung. These types of hives had a low capacity to produce honey, producing approximately three liters of honey.”**

Explained **Isaack Abel** a **Community Member**, as he removed honey from a traditional beehive.



Through the work of the Reversing Land Degradation trends and increasing Food Security in degraded ecosystems of semi-arid areas of central Tanzania (LDFS) project, the community was given 600 beehives, as well as training on modern beekeeping practices, which resulted in the improvement of 200 beehives.

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**Initially, we received 200 beehives from the regional commissioner in 2020, as well as training on modern beekeeping. One of the practices we were trained on was on how to know when a beehive has bees inside it. This is done by looking at the beehive sheet which is inside the beehive. The LDFS project has given us improved beehives and provided us with protective clothing, which improves our safety.”**

Jacob Edward, Group Chairperson



RFS ENGAGE series



# Enhancing Honey Harvesting with the Hadzabe Community in Munguli Village: Lessons Learned & Opportunities to Scale-Up



## Improved bee harvesting practices resulted in the following benefits for the Hadzabe community:

- Enhanced capacity for detecting colonies by looking at the beehive sheet inside the hive for active bees.
- Improved safety and security of those harvesting the honey with protective suits and training on safe extraction of honey.
- Enhancing the access to honey and tree protection, as the hives can be hoisted and lowered on ropes from the trees thus protecting the trees from being climbed on.
- Increased market access.
- Through farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange, this community can boost the value of honey, capital and markets in Tanzania's Tabora and Katavi Regions.
- Increased knowledge on how to protect forests for future use.

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**We got money from selling honey, and with this money we were able to hire a technician to build a sheltered toilet. This toilet is being used by the community, including the nurses that work in the community clinic.”**

Marco Omary, Community Member

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**With the money generated from the honey sales, we were able to support the construction of two classrooms. The government also contributed to the construction.”**

Sara Philipo, Community member

The LDFS project also worked to improve market access and mitigate existing challenges such as those shared by the Group Chairperson, Jacob Edward, **“the market is a challenge because we only sell our honey to the Barabeig tribe located in a neighboring village. The problem is if you keep the honey without selling it, it freezes, and we cannot sell it anymore.”**

The LDSF project established a honey collecting center in June 2022 to foster a profitable market for the Hadzabe Community as part of its 10-year sustainability plan. The collection center will enhance the capacity of value chains for producer groups in Hadzabe and reduce land conflict between livestock keepers and farmers.

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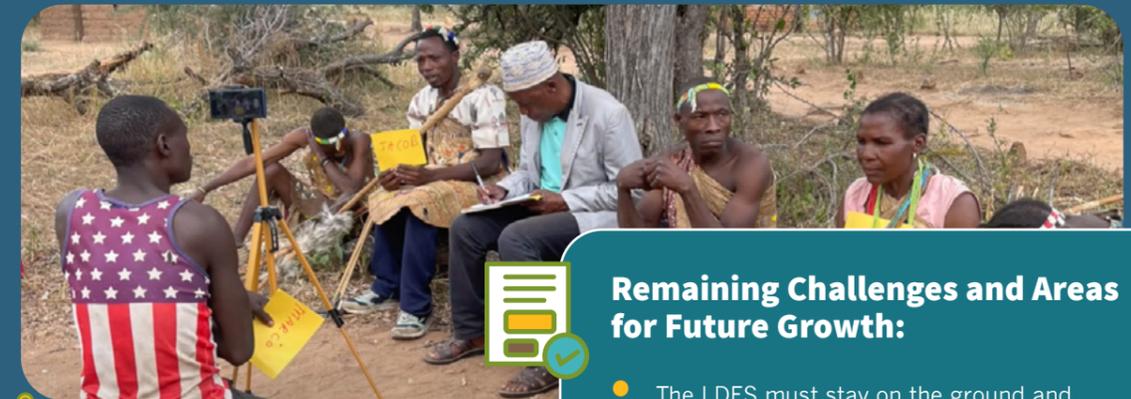
**We anticipate that the government will assist the organization in developing policies that restrict livestock from destroying areas designated for beekeeping. The challenge is that the livestock destroy trees and the natural grasses that are essential for beekeeping. Livestock also contributes significantly to land degradation. We also request that this organization (LDFS) remains in close contact with us to enhance our education on harvesting honey. While the Programme has done an excellent job so far, we need more youth to participate in the training programmes.”**

Marco Omary, Community Member

The best practices shown demonstrated by the Hadzabe Community will be replicated under the Integrated Landscape Management in Dry Miombo Woodlands of Tanzania Programme, as part of the Sustainable Forest management Impact Programme on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL-IP) funded by the Global Environment Facility. The community is hoping that it will continue to boost honey value, capital

and markets in Tanzania's Tabora and Katavi regions through farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange.

The Hadzabe residents are excited to participate as trainers in the Global Environment Facility project and to work with the government to upscale the best practices witnessed in Mkalama District, across Tanzania.



## Benefits of Best Practices:

- Village residents are taught how to become best practice trainers in the GEF-7 project and will work with the Government to train other people in the community and in other communities
- Cash generated from the honey sales meant that the Hadzabe village could buy cement and raw materials to build toilets
- The community was also able to pay a contractor, and together with the Government, were able to build two classrooms through the sales of their honey
- More advanced value chains for the honey sales

## Remaining Challenges and Areas for Future Growth:

- The LDFS must stay on the ground and keep working with the community as there is a need for more youth to participate in the training programs
- The Government will need to assist in the development of future policies that restrict livestock from destroying the areas designated for beekeeping
- Policies also need to be put in place to help restrict the movement of livestock. They destroy the trees and grasslands that are essential for beekeeping as well as causing land degradation
- More skills are needed – to learn how use the byproducts of the honey production e.g., how to prepare honey wax, **“we wish to learn how to prepare honey wax.”** – Sara Philipo, Community Member.
- Improved access to larger markets.