

## HANDS ON EXPERIENCE FOR AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS OF OPS WITH HONEY BEE REARING

As reported by Nandini Anandkumar, Teacher in Agriculture

Honey bee is a nature's gift to Mankind .It is one of the prime pollinators in the world and so of immense benefit to mankind not only for aiding in pollination but also for adding on to the income of farmers. Apiculture is the technique involved in rearing of honey bees and Apiary is a place where honey bees are reared.



*Resource Person, Shri Vai Krishnan geared up for the session with Newton Box and Extractor*



*A student trying his hand at making the first hive ready*



As part of the curriculum in Agriculture, the students of Agriculture were taken to an apiary owned by Shri Vai Krishnan, a retired Fine Arts Teacher and an Apiculturist involved in the profession for the past 35 years. On the fine morning of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018, students left the school in a van along with the Course Teacher Mrs.Nandini AnandKumar to the Apiary at Pachur. The students were given a very vivid and lucid presentation by Shri. Vai Krishnanan about the nuances involved in Apiculture. He expounded on the different breeds of honey bees and highlighted about the most suitable one to our condition. He also detailed about the various types of bees that exist in a colony and the role each played in it. This was shown using colourful diagrams and pictures. The procedure involved in rearing of bees right from getting the initial members of the family was revealed to the learners using adequate teaching aids which were in fact the real things used in apiculture. This encompassed things like the Newton Box, smoker, the wooden frames. Natural strings from banana pseudo stems, knives and other accessories. Students were also involved in the act of actually tying the foundation comb onto the wooden frame. The entire life cycle of the honey bees including its anatomy and how it aided in conversion of nectar to honey was beautifully explained by the resource person to the students.

The students also learnt about the extraction procedure of honey using honey extractor.



*Extraction of honey from honey comb  
in progress*



*Students tasting 'Real and Pure honey'*

The students were later given a demonstration with live specimens of honey bee colonies in the Newton box (The box in which the bees breed). Children shedding their fear looked with admiration at the honey bees when the box was opened. They also got their doubts about the economies of apiculture clarified from the resource persons. They were served pure honey by Shri.VaiKrishnan .He also gave them a demo on identifying pure and impure honey. The experience was something which could kindle the entrepreneurship skill in them.



*Observing Live colonies of bees*



*Honouring the Apiculturist*

On a whole, the farm visit was a vivid exposure to the natural environment away from the textbooks in a practical situation and it was a good learning experience for the students.

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