

BEEKEEPING SECTOR ANALYSIS IN ROMANIA

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Abstract

Honey sweet food was first used by man until the discovery of sugar cane and beet sugar. Archaeological prove that the man began to eat honey since 10.000 years ago. Beekeeping practice started around the year 700 î. Hr. For centuries honey has been considered sacred items due to its sweet taste and its scarcity.

In our country, resource abundance and variety of spontaneous and cultivated bees provide honey nutrition, early spring until late autumn. In these circumstances, in recent years, beekeeping (an activity that does not require special investment) has become a profession for people whose existence is assured revenues from beekeeping.

It can be observed that both the number of bee families and the honey production have reached a significant growth.

Keywords: beekeeping, honey,types, production, cost.

INTRODUCTION

In ancient Egypt, honey was used in cooking, medicine and cosmetics.

For Romanian people, honey was so valuable that one could use to pay for taxes that were paid with gold.

Mead, an alcoholic beverage was processed with honey and highly prized by the ancients as had the name and the "nectar of the gods " .

Kings of Lower Egypt's first dynasty, considered "bee" their protective insect.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

To achieve the objectives of this work, the working method were used: data collection, processing, analysis and interpretation.

The research methodology for the theoretical part consists of consulting publications in correlation with the specific of the subject refered to in the current paper. The publications, books and brochures refer to the subject from the oldest times until present.

The research methodology for the statistical results comes from consulting data published by the INS (National Institute of Statistics) for a period of several years.

RESULTS

1. DEVELOPMENTS OF BEEKEEPIN SECTOR IN ROMANIA

Romania has a long tradition of farming and making honey bee products, beekeeping established itself like an independent occupation since ancient times, originally for the products (honey, pollen, royal jelly, propolis, beeswax and venom bees), and later, including the present, the contribution that these insects have increased yields of fruit, vegetables and seeds through pollination.

It can be observed that both the number of bee families and the honey production have reached a significant growth.

Table 1: Evolution of the number of bee colonies and honey production obtained

Years	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 estimate
Families of bees thousands of families	614	745	781	839	888	920	975	1.086	1.109	1.110	1.280
Honey production thousand tons	11.74	12.59	13.43	17.40	19.15	18.19	18.19	16.76	20.03	21.50	23.700

Source: INS data

In Romania, the breeding of bees has grown particularly in favorable natural conditions.

2. TYPES OF HONEY

In Romania, in a normal year without weather problems, are carried about 20,000 tons of honey, the largest share being held by the multi-flower honey 50%, followed by honey locust - 35% and the made from lime, with a 15% share.

In Romania is obtained, usually high yields of honey, but are also sold on the domestic market as small amounts of honey consumption per person is among the lowest in Europe, 150 grams to 2 kg in Germany, followed The Netherlands and Belgium with 1.5 kilograms per person.

An important role in the production of bee is held by-products among which include: the pollen collected by collectors, propolis, royal jelly, beeswax, bee venom (apitoxins) and drone larvae triturations of commercial *apilarnil* known.

For the production of pollen is mentioned only a level of about 50-60 tons per year, mostly in the center and north of the country, but it can reach and even exceed 100 tons / year.

Table 2: Distribution of bee families on bee farms in 2009

Farm size (Number families)	Number of bee families	% from effective
1 – 50	627.823	56,56
50 - 150	265.676	23,94
over 150	216.501	19,50
TOTAL	1.110.000	100

Source: INS data

In the period 2007 - 2009 National Bee Program through support by the restocking of bee increased average of bee the category of holding between 1-50 from 14 families / 18 families apiary / apiary today and the remaining categories increased the number of families with 2.21% and 1.61%.

Currently, Romania is among countries with well developed beekeeping, as a consequence of this situation: large flocks of bee families we have, the amount of honey produced, diversification of production beekeeping scientific research results and training of specialists etc.

In our country, resource abundance and variety of spontaneous and cultivated bees provide honey nutrition, early spring until late autumn. In these circumstances, in recent years, beekeeping (an activity that does not require special investment) has become a profession for people whose existence is assured revenues from beekeeping.

It can be observed that both the number of bee families and the honey production have reached a significant growth.

3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL PROGRAM BEEKEEPING SECTOR APICULTURE PERIOD 2008 - 2010

In Romania, there are accredited and developed over the past two years, over 45 units bee multiplication farms providing beekeepers demand for restocking, to a single unit as it was until 2008.

Table 3: European and national financial aid for beekeeping sector apiculture, between 2008 - 2010

Years	Community Contribution	Contribution of Romania	Total amount approved and paid	Which:		%
	(€)	(lei)	(lei)	(€)	(lei)	
2008	1.985.267	6.717.150	2.493.978,28	333.417,76	1.128.119,00	16,80
2009	1.966.151	6.652.471	7.168.424,00	1.059.320,75	3.584.212,51	53,88
2010 estimate	1.975.931	6.685.562,5	12.014.808,00	1.775.500,00	6.007.404,00	89,85
Total	5.927.349	20.055.183,5	21.677.210,28	3.168.238,51	10.719.735,51	-

Sursa: date INS, Exchange: 4.2 lei

In 2007-2008 a total of 68 associative forms of payment files submitted, 65 were accepted and 3 were rejected for failure conditions of eligibility;

In 2008-2009 have submitted payment records of 79 associations and all forms have been accepted for payment;

4. HONEY IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF ROMANIA

Principal market continues to be external, where more than 60% of local production reaches countries like: Germany, Great Britain, Italy, France, Austria and the USA, Canada, Japan or China.

Table 4: Situation of imports / exports in the period 2000-2009

SPECIFICATIONS	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
IMPORT - tons	137	506	739	232	52	21	63	315	777	515,5
EXPORT - tons	7.501	6.862	5.784	9.633	8.757	6.632	9.606	6.255	7.087	10.654

Source: INS data

Although Romanian honey is highly valued in foreign markets, it is recovered at low prices, because Honey external processors offer low prices that do not cover expenses in

beekeeping. Another reason for low price is that the romanian export honey is preferred “en gross “system.

5. HONEY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS IN ROMANIA

In 2008-2009 it was found a generally increasing trend in the price of honey in Romania. The graph shows the development “en gross” purchase price of the processor and retail prices in food markets (direct sales) in 2008 and 2009.

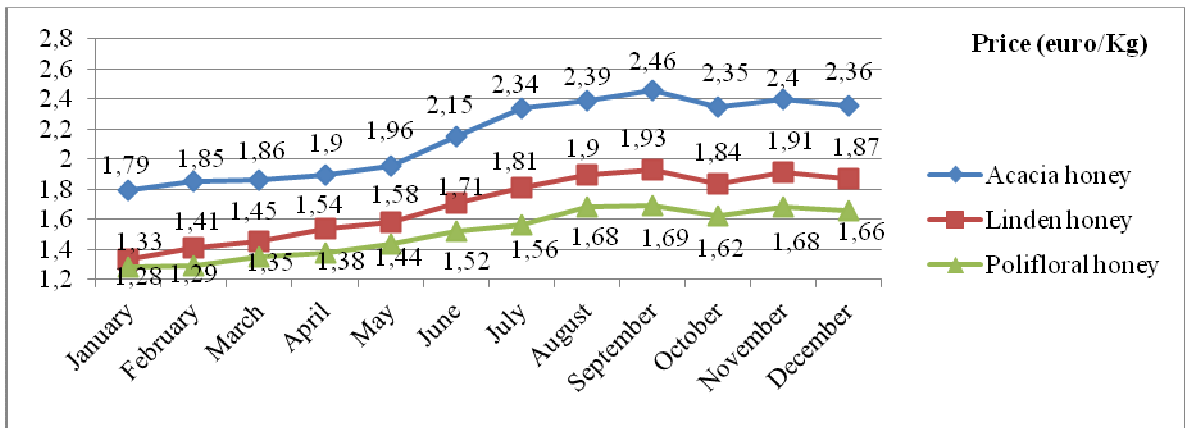


Fig. 1. Evolution of average price of honey in bulk in Romania in 2008

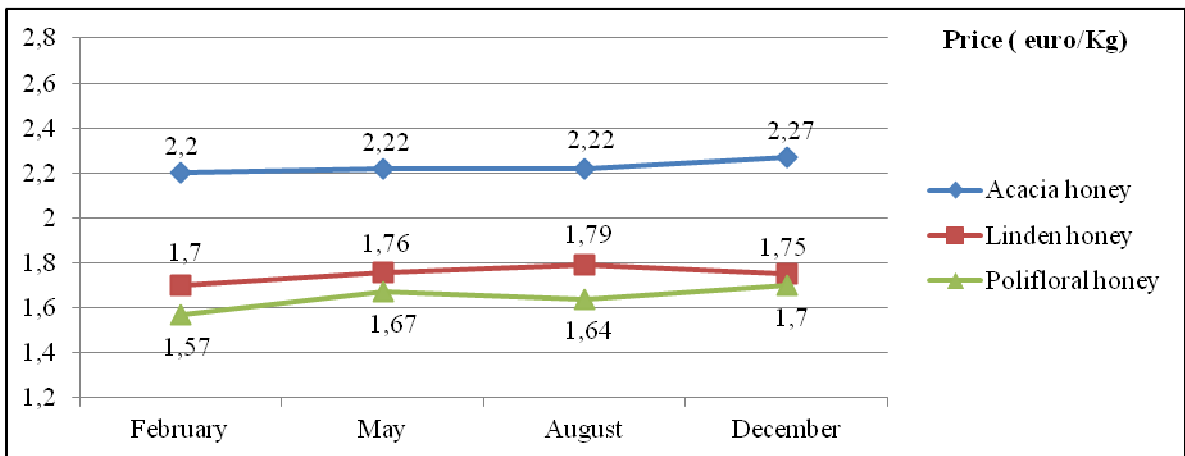


Fig. 2. Evolution of average price of honey in bulk in Romania in 2009

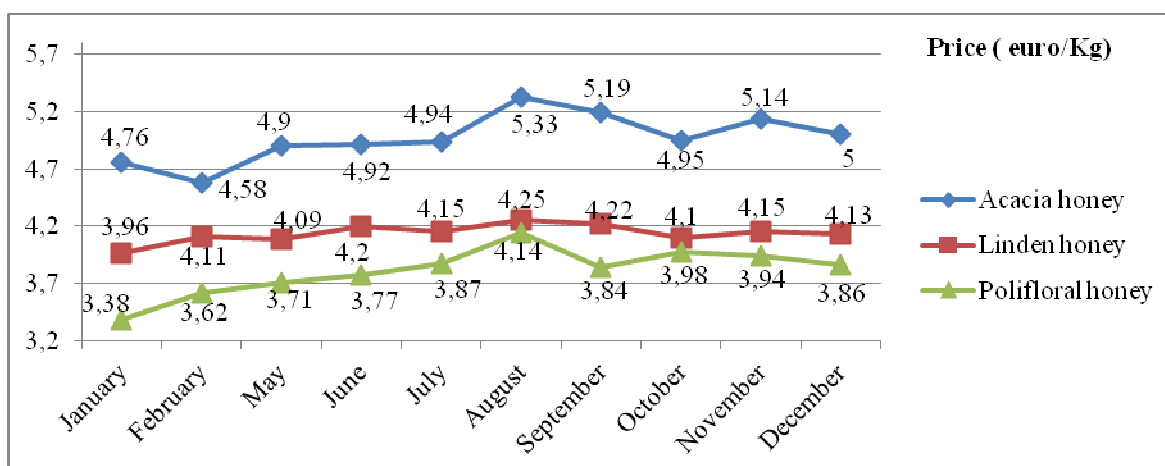


Fig. 3. Evolution of average selling price of honey paces in the market in Romania in 2008

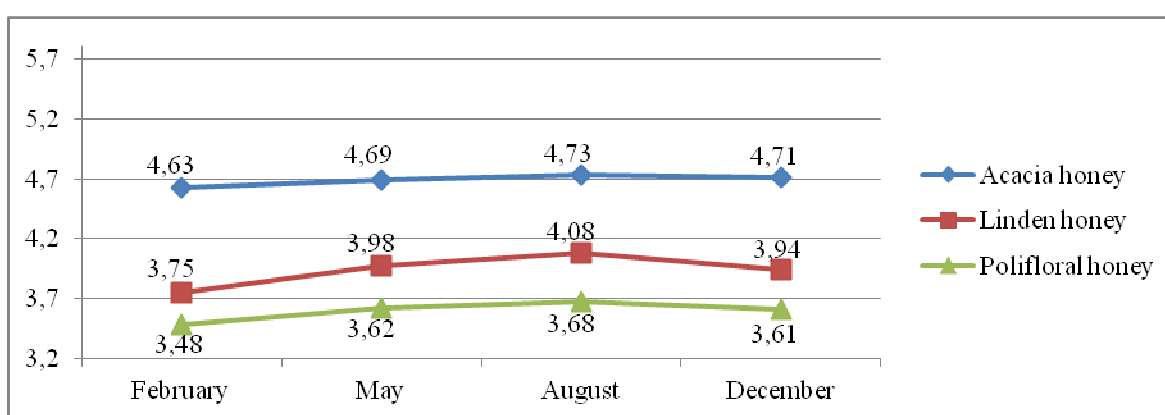


Fig. 4. Evolution of average selling price of honey paces in the market in Romania in 2009

6. THE ASSOCIATIVE FORMS OF BEEKEEPERS AND HONEY PROCESSORS

Beekeepers, honey and honey products processors honey as well as other chain partners are organized into associations, cooperatives, producer groups and federations, and are made as required by law.

Associations of beekeepers have legal personality and a local, county or national representation.

Representatives of legally established association forms hold regular meetings between beekeepers, processors and representatives of local and central governments in order to inform their members on specific legislation, on how to access forms of national or European aid.

CONCLUSIONS

Currently, Romania is among countries with well developed due to bee: large flocks of bee colonies that have the quantity of honey produced, bee production diversification, etc.. The economic benefits that help increase revenue from beekeepers are turning the key products of the hive.

In Romania, there are accredited and developed over the past two years, over 45 units bee multiplication farms providing beekeepers demand for restocking, to a single unit as it was until 2008.

The price was influenced by various factors such as general market developments globally, changes in foreign exchange, living standards, awareness of healthy nutrition in the population of Romania.

Principal market continues to be external, where more than 60% of local production reaches countries like: Germany, Great Britain, Italy, France, Austria and the USA, Canada, Japan or China.

The internal market has been characterized in recent years both in terms of a dynamic volume growth and diversification of raising the quality and assortment.

Beekeeping can be occupied an important segment of the labor force in scientific research, education, bee production and industrial sectors recovery, health and others.

Beekeepers, honey and honey products processors honey as well as other chain partners are organized into associations, cooperatives, producer groups and federations, and are made as required by law.

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