

**Proposal on**

Organizing the International Beekeeping Conference (IBC) 2026

**"Modern Beekeeping Practices for Human Health, Sustainable Crop Production  
and Livelihood"**

**Submitted by:**

Agriculture and Forestry University

Rampur, Chitwan

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

And

Federation of Nepal Beekeepers Association

Nepal

## Background

Beekeeping is a sustainable and high potential activity for local communities, especially for marginalized and rural populations, enabling the production of various products such as honey, propolis, pollen, beeswax, royal jelly, and bee venom. Advancements in beekeeping have gained popularity worldwide due to their contribution to strengthening livelihoods through revenue generation and providing pollination services, resulting in higher crop yields. Beekeeping holds a significant cultural heritage in Nepalese communities, with honey hunting dating back thousands of years. Nepal has a higher potential of beekeeping topographical, climatic, and floral varieties where five *Apis spp* exist. Among them, four species *Apis laboriosa* S., *Apis dorsata* F., *Apis florea* F., and *Apis cerana* F., are native to Nepal and one exotic honey bee *Apis mellifera* with their specific characteristics varies from tropical to temperate climatic regions.

Although, scientific beekeeping in Nepal was initiated in 1989 with the introduction of moveable comb hive of native bee *Apis cerana*, however, commercialization of modern beekeeping geared up with the introduction of high yielding exotic honeybee *Apis mellifera* in year 1994. Honey bees are crucial high-value commodities, engaging over 6000 households in commercial beekeeping, with 248,995 beehives producing 5,168 metric tonnes of honey, valued at \$1,118,096 (FAO, 2023). Although honey production in Nepal accounts for only 0.3% of global output, the honey and other bee products from four native bee species and one exotic honeybee are considered organic. These bees collect nectar from the natural forests in remote areas of Nepal, where the use of pesticides and agrochemicals is minimal. Bees are valued not only for honey but also for other products like royal jelly, propolis, beeswax, venom, and pollen. Beyond this, they play a vital role in pollination and contribute to ecotourism.

Bees, as the largest group of pollinators, are essential for agricultural production. Insect pollination contributes 35 percent of the global yield of 87 leading food crops. Honeybees are the most important among pollinators, significantly enhancing both the quantity and quality of crop yields. The decline in insect pollinators threatens food production by reducing crop yields. In this scenario, beekeeping helps sustain pollination services, ensuring crop production and supporting plant biodiversity in natural ecosystems. Honeybees are particularly efficient in pollinating self-incompatible and cross-pollinated crops by maintaining strong pollinator populations during flowering seasons. Even self-pollinated crops yield better with improved seed quality and hybrid vigor, without altering the natural properties of fruits and seeds. Managed honeybee colonies are less vulnerable to many of the

pressures facing wild pollinators, acting as a safeguard when wild pollinator populations decrease. They also provide effective pollination where wild pollinators are insufficient. The economic value of honeybee pollination is far greater than the value of hive products alone.

Beekeeping, as a sustainable agricultural practice, plays a vital role not only in supporting ecosystem health but also in contributing to economic development, disaster risk management and human health. By promoting good beekeeping practices, such as the use of protective equipment and effective pest management techniques, the health of honey bee populations can be maintained, reducing the risk of disease transmission to other animals and humans. As we continue to recognize the significance of bees in agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability and human health, fostering improved beekeeping methods becomes essential for ensuring both food nutrition and security and ecological balance.

### **Objective**

The main objective of this conference is to bring together national, regional, and international experts in apitherapy, beekeeping and pollination to discuss various aspects of the field, including apitherapy, pollination, value of bee products and beekeeping livelihoods. Additionally, it will explore the management practices regarding beekeeping, disease and pest management and value addition aspects used by beekeepers worldwide. The conference will be beneficial in reviewing beekeeping plans and policies related to the purity of honey and other bee products. It will also highlight the crucial role of bees in crop pollination and their impact on food security and nutrition in developing countries. By offering a platform for knowledge-sharing, this event will also help raise awareness among agricultural producers, technicians, experts, and policymakers on the importance of bee pollinator conservation and management.

The specific objectives of this conference are as follows:

- Review the plan and policies of beekeeping and honey purity in Southeast Asia.
- Bring together leading researchers from across the globe to share the current state of research on different aspects of beekeeping, pollination and apitherapy
- Assess emerging challenges and opportunities in beekeeping practices on the regional scale.
- Promote education and awareness among public and private sectors on the multiple benefits of apitherapy and pollination, enhancing decision-making tools and practical actions to support apitherapy and beekeeping for pollination services.
- Monitoring and assessing the status and trends of pollinators, the role of pollination on agricultural production in all regions and addressing gaps in knowledge.

- Encourage practical solutions for disease and pest management, and explore value addition in bee products to improve the sustainability of beekeeping practices.

### **Methodological approach to organize the conference**

The international beekeeping conference 2026 will be organized following the standard international conference norms and methodologies of similar international conferences, hosting a total of 250 national, regional and international participants. It will be hosted over three days with four major themes, each led by a keynote speaker, an invited speaker and supported by thematic and contributory presentations by the experts and researchers:

#### **1. Apitherapy and Bee Products**

This theme will highlight the following aspects:

- Medicinal properties of honey, propolis, royal jelly and bee venom
- Innovations in apitherapy research and clinical applications
- Quality control and certification of bee products
- Safety, regulations and international trade of bee products

#### **2. Pollination and Bee Flora**

This theme will highlight the following aspects:

- Diversity, phenology, and distribution of bee flora
- Impacts of climate change on pollinators and floral resources
- Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) for pollinator conservation and habitat restoration
- Biodiversity conservation and landscape management for sustaining pollination services
- Agroecology and pollinator-friendly farming systems
- Pollination service valuation and ecosystem modeling

#### **3. Bee Biology and Bee health**

This theme will highlight the following aspects:

- Honey bee physiology, behavior, and genetics
- Pests, diseases, and emerging threats to bee health
- Colony loss, stress factors, and adaptation strategies
- Breeding, selection, and conservation of bee species
- Innovations in hive management, nutrition, and health monitoring

#### **4. Beekeeping Livelihoods and Economy**

This theme will highlight the following aspects:

- Socioeconomic importance of beekeeping to livelihoods
- Honey value chain analysis and market opportunities
- Inclusive beekeeping: women, youth, and marginalized groups
- Business models, entrepreneurship, and cooperative development
- Policy frameworks, extension services, and institutional support
- Traditional knowledge and indigenous beekeeping practices

Presentations of thematic papers, supporting papers, and posters will serve as the core modalities of the conference. A total of 60–70 presenters from around the world will share their research and experiences across the four thematic areas. To maximize participation and ensure efficient use of time, a parallel poster session will be organized for studies and reports not included in the oral presentation slots.

Posters will follow a standard format, including: Title, Objectives, Methodology, Major Findings, and Recommendations, accompanied by relevant graphs, tables, and figures. Based on the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee, outstanding posters will be recognized with a special token of appreciation.

All papers presented during the conference will be compiled into Conference Proceedings, which will be shared with participating individuals, institutions, and relevant organizations after the event.

#### **Post-Conference Activities**

Participants may opt for **2-day exposure visits**, which will include:

- Field observations of beekeeping practices
- Visits to research farms, apiaries, and honey-processing units
- Touristic excursions in Chitwan and nearby attractions

Table 1: Draft schedule of the conference and other activities

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Day 4 and 5:</b>
<b>Theme: Apitherapy and Bee products</b>	<b>Theme: Bee Biology and Bee Health</b>	<b>Theme: Pollination and Bee Flora</b>	<b>Tour packages for the participants to observe the beekeeping and the tourist destination</b>
<b>Theme: Beekeeping Livelihoods and Economy</b>			
Keynote speakers:	Keynote speakers:	Keynote speakers:	

Invited speaker	Invited speaker	Invited speaker	
Presenter 1	Presenter 1	Presenter 1	
Presenter 2	Presenter 2	Presenter 2	
Presenter 3	Presenter 3	Presenter 3	
And so on	And so on	And so on	
Poster presentation	Poster presentation	Poster presentation	

### **Apiexpo and Exhibitions**

The International Beekeeping Conference 2026 will feature a dedicated Fair and Exhibition Expo, bringing together international, regional, and national stakeholders from across the beekeeping sector. Exhibitors will include beekeeping equipment suppliers, honey and bee product enterprises, research institutions, NGOs, development organizations, and private industries.

The Expo will serve as a dynamic platform to:

- Provide the honey tasting and honey demonstration
- Showcase innovations in beekeeping technology and management
- Promote best practices for sustainable beekeeping and pollination
- Demonstrate tools and techniques through live demonstrations
- Display diverse bee products, equipment, and value-added items
- Facilitate networking and business engagement through forums and interactions

A total of 8 exhibitor booths will be installed at the conference venue, providing opportunities for engagement among beekeepers and honey producers, researchers and academicians, entrepreneurs, industry representatives, government agencies, development partners, and students. To encourage global participation, at least four international exhibitors will be invited to join the Expo. All exhibitors will be acknowledged with a token of appreciation, and outstanding exhibitors will be recognized with special awards.

This Expo will serve as an important hub for knowledge-sharing, partnership-building, and enhancing innovation in beekeeping and pollination services.

### **Conference Secretariat and Staff**

The conference secretariat will be formed at the Agriculture and Forestry University in coordination with Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the Federation of Nepal Beekeepers Association. A full-time staff member will be hired for six months to facilitate

the conference's administrative work. Dr. Kedar Devkota will serve as the conference's focal person (member secretary) from Agriculture and Forestry University.

### Conference Committees

The conference will be hosted by Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoALD) and Federation of Nepal Beekeepers (FNBK) in coordination with different international and national organizations working in beekeeping. Additionally, a main conference executive committee will be formed, including all the relevant stakeholders representing Ministry of Agricultural and Livestock Development, INGOs/NGOs working on beekeeping, academicians and representatives from the international bee/pollination associations.

Similarly, a technical committee and other supporting committees will be formed in discussion with the executive committee as needed.

### Conference date and Venue

The proposed international beekeeping conference will be hosted at the Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal, from 6-10 April 2026.

### Conference Participants

We are expecting international delegates from more than 20 countries worldwide (approx. 60 international participants), all with extensive knowledge and experience in beekeeping and pollination. A total of 250 participants, including national, regional and international experts and beekeepers, will attend the conference.

### Conference Cost Estimate

The estimated total cost for organizing this conference is NRs **9,190,000 (equivalent to \$65,035 as per the exchange rate of August 2025)**. Item-wise detail cost is shown in the table

S. N	Items	Units	Quantity	Rate	Amount (NPR)
1	Conference bag	Number	300	1500	450000
2	Stationary for participants	Set	300	300	90000
3	Publications of proceeding	Copy	500	1000	500000
4	Local Transportation for participants	Person	300	2000	600000
5	In-country transportation	Person	50	8000	400000
6	International keynote speaker / participants' logistic	Person	200	6000	1200000

	support				
7	Hands out	Set	300	500	150000
8	Photography and video	Day	3	40000	120000
9	Venue charge	Day	3	25000	75000
10	Breakfast for 3 days	Person	900	750	675000
11	Lunch for 3 days	Person	900	2000	1800000
12	Inception dinner	Person	300	3500	1050000
13	Dinner for national and international delegates	Person	120	1500	180000
14	Hi Tea for 3 days	Person	900	500	450000
15	Stationery and communication for a secretariat	L/S	1	200000	200000
16	Refreshment meeting	Times	10	20000	200000
17	Telephone/Internet cost	L/S	1	30000	30000
18	Award for the presenter	Number	50	4000	200000
20	Banner (Poster/Pamphlet/Conference flyer)	Number	1	150000	150000
21	Voice recorder and sound system	L/S	1	100000	100000
22	Full-time staff for conference secretariat	Month	6	70000	420000
23	Miscellaneous	L/S	1	100000	100000
	<b>Total</b>				<b>9190000</b>
	Estimated participants 300 (including participants, volunteers and others office staff)				