



Apimondia Newsletter | December 2024

Apimondia statement on honey fraud is in the news!

The Guardian reports in an extensive article the discussions at the National Honey Show the problems caused by adulteration of honey. Apimondia commented on the decision to cancel the honey contest at the Apimondia Congress in Copenhagen 2025.

Apimondia said in [a statement](#): "We will celebrate honey in many ways at the congress, but honey will no longer be a category, and thus no honey judging, in the World Beekeeping Awards. This change to remove honey as a category was necessitated by the inability to have honey fully tested for adulteration.

About 45% of honeys were rejected at the awards in Montreal in 2019 for a variety of reasons, including suspected adulteration. At the Istanbul congress in 2022, 39 out of 145 honeys were withdrawn for suspected adulteration. The awards will continue with other categories, including beeswax, mead, innovation and publications.

Jeff Pettis, Apimondia president, says the first laboratory tests for honey were introduced for the 2019 awards. Honeys which were excluded were replaced with a card stating: "This exhibit has failed laboratory analysis and cannot be judged further."

There were logistical challenges for the competition in authenticating entries and in border controls, he said. The Copenhagen congress in September 2025 would highlight the damage being done to beekeepers around the world by fraud.

Read the full article in The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/nov/30/beekeepers-halt-honey-awards>

Apimondia congress 2025 will be held in Copenhagen.

Registration is open: www.apimondia2025.com

Submissions for abstracts is still open.

To learn even more about the congress, watch a video by Lars and Zofuz on an exciting journey to the [National Honey Show](#) in London! This annual event, held at Sandown Park Racecourse in Surrey, attracts over 3,500 visitors and showcases the best of beekeeping from around the world. Lars and Zofuz, representing the Danish Beekeepers' Association, are on a mission to promote the upcoming Apimondia Congress in Copenhagen in 2025.

[Watch the video](#)

Learn about the possibilities to meet the Scandinavian Beekeepers at the congress and find a host to visit and accommodation with the beekeepers at www.beebonding.com

The beekeepers from Norway, Sweden and Denmark look forward to meeting you all in Copenhagen.



Apimondia is a partner in the [BeeGuards](#) project: **Resilient beekeeping and breeding to safeguard natural genetic resources and pollination services.**

The 4-year project starting in October 2023, aims to provide sustainable management practices, novel breeding strategies, and digital and forecasting tools that will allow the beekeeping sector to adapt to a changing environment. In the field, BeeGuards will perform studies in 11 countries in Europe and beyond, applying innovative threshold-based management practices, using hives equipped with digital sensors.

Apimondia's participation is concentrated on the invasive species, mainly on the Tropilaelaps mite (Jeff Pettis) and Small Hive Beetle (Fani Hatjina) and especially in the task: Predicting the future spread of invasive pests and develop protocols for mitigation. Developments on the task were discussed in November, in Bologna, during the 2nd annual BeeGuards Consortium meeting.

As a beekeeper's Federation, Apimondia was also participating actively in the Multi Actor Forum, which hold a hybrid meeting on November 21st in Bologna.

The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101082073.

What we are reading

A new book on honeybee breeding from Bee Guards WP2 Breeding kitchen!

It can be downloaded for free from here: <https://beeguards.eu/downloads/>

[New method for Tropilaelaps mercedesae detection!](#)

[First Report on Tropilaelaps mercedesae Presence in Georgia](#): The Mite is Heading Westward!

APIMONDIA REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Beekeeping in school initiative: Hive making and beekeeping training

Chapwanya primary school – Buhera, zimbabwe

The Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa has been involved in regional initiatives that help empower communities especially in rural areas to earn a living through beekeeping. One of the initiatives is Beekeeping in Schools intended to catch and empower school-going kids with skills to make hives and start beekeeping with the intention of helping in raising their fees through honey sales. The pilot program was done at Muzokomba High School where kids from 4 Primary Schools and 3 Secondary Schools were trained with great success.

The District Schools Inspector for Buhera District of Manicaland Province then requested that the same training be rolled out to all the rural schools in the district. It was by chance that the teacher who taught Mr David Mukomana - the Regional Commission President more than 30 years ago picked the training success at Muzokomba and requested that the same training be done at Chapwanya Primary School where he is currently teaching. This resulted in the training being scheduled for 25 to 30 November 2024. The training was initially scheduled for 15 schools who had indicated their interest. Due to serious financial difficulties, only 5 schools managed to contribute the USD145.00 per school that was required to buy timber and food for the training with the hives then being distributed to the participating schools. Each school was required to bring 5 kids and 2 teachers for the training.

The Regional Commission had to contribute towards the materials for the training resulting in more than 50 hives being produced by the kids. These hives were distributed between the schools to kick-start their beekeeping projects in line with the government of Zimbabwe's Education 5.0 curriculum that is promoting skills-based education that will produce employment creators and not employment seekers.

The Regional Commission President had the privilege to meet with World Vision officials, a development partner working in the district who were impressed by the training and are now engaging in some discussions to consider an MoU with Apimondia to roll the training to other schools in the district, targeting at least 30 schools in the first quarter of 2025 at a boarding school during school holidays to take advantage of boarding facilities that will accommodate the training.

What was fascinating about the Chapwanya training is the fact that the school had a colony nesting in a tree hollow by the school gate where one day a kid decided to disturb the colony resulting in chaos at the school. The school immediately engaged the services of a local beekeeper to assist calm the situation. The message they got was that bees are our friends that must be protected and should not be disturbed. The school decided to cut the tree and make two log hives and keep the bees as a project. Now with the hive making and beekeeping training, the school is targeting supplying local communities with honey from their apiary.

World Vision officials have already secured fencing for the apiary at Chapwanya Primary School which will be erected soon as the materials were delivered during the training, a proof that they were seriously in support of the initiative. Two days after the training, World Vision visited Organo Seven honey processing facilities in Harare with the view of assessing the type of equipment they will need to put in the budget to establish a honey processing facility for the schools. The development partner has already pledged possible support to the Regional Commission initiative with sponsorship for the kids to attend 2025 International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB) and participation of the Beekeeping in Schools Initiative participating Schools in Arusha, Tanzania at the 50th Apimondia Congress in September 2027.

Organo Seven has provided the hive making machines and training for free in support of the Regional Commission.



Regional Commission President making the demo hive during the training



Regional Commission President supervising the kids and marvelling at the work of the girls during the hive making training

Find out more

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Next Apimondia Congress www.apimondia2025.com will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark 23 - 27 september 2025 in Cooperation with the Beekeeper Associations from Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

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