

ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF WONCHI BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION: A CASE OF WONCHI DISTRICT, SOUTH WEST SHOA ZONE OF OROMIA, ETHIOPIA

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ABSTRACT

Assessment of the performance of Wonchi beekeepers association was conducted in Wonchi district of Oromia regional national state from mid July to September, 2013 to find out the major factors that influencing beekeepers not being a member of Wonchi beekeepers association. For this study, two Peasant Associations (PAs) were selected using purposive and simple random sampling techniques to select 64 beekeepers (32 members and 32 non members of beekeepers association) and 3 honey value chain supporters, 2 honey retailers and a total of 69 respondents were selected to collect the required data. The interview was conducted using pre-tested structured questionnaires which include both close and open-ended questions to collect the required information. Descriptive statistics was employed to describe qualitative variables, while statistical test such as independent samples t-test was employed to test continuous variables. Value chain map tool was employed to show quantitative and qualitative data collected during field survey, while the spider web model tool was used to assess the performance of the association. The results of the study revealed that high entrance fee 47.2%, not fulfill the criteria of membership 30.6%, lack of adequate information 19.4%, application unaccepted 13.9% and absence of interest 5.6% are the main factors that influencing beekeepers not being a member of association. Wonchi beekeepers' association was scored low performance in the area of service provision, long term prospective, relationship with other stakeholders and membership base. The average of market distance members and non member association traveled to arrive at nearest market was 9.28 km and 21.5 km respectively. There was significant difference at ($p < 0.01$) between members and non members of beekeepers association to arrive at nearest market. The average amount of honey yield annually per traditional hive of members and non members of association was 11.44 ± 1.106 and 8.22 ± 0.083 Kg respectively. The mean yields obtained from transitional hive of two groups were statistically significant at ($p < 0.05$). The mean yield obtained from modern hive of members and non members of beekeepers association was (14.67 ± 2.420 and 9.24 ± 0.073 kg), respectively. There was significant difference between the two groups at ($p < 0.05$) with respect to honey yield from modern bee hive. Hence, the study of the cause of low member participation into association would be helpful in designing strategies that are capable of polarizing new members to beekeepers association.

Keywords: Beekeepers, association, Wonchi district, services, honey, membership and performance.