

## **DYNAMICS OF POVERTY, DEFORESTATION AND BEEKEEPING IN NORTHERN NIGERIA: CONCERNS FOR POLICYMAKERS - PART II**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Poverty and deforestation, reforestation and beekeeping are seemingly interrelated. While the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) seemed to be fielding aggressive programmes towards promotion of afforestation as a measure of minimizing deforestation, and the level of poverty still remaining at the lowest extreme, the supposedly beekeeping projects that can serve as a bridging strategy has been neglected. This study investigates the dynamics between the very poor livelihoods of the people of northern Nigeria, reforestation programmes of the FGN and promotion of apiculture as a strong link for stabilization of the economy in the area. Information was mainly gathered from secondary sources, but primary data were obtained using structured questionnaire served beekeepers. Descriptive statistics, apiary net return and computation of values were applied in the analysis of the data. Results show that the rate of poverty is higher in the northern parts of Nigeria where the livelihoods of the people are heavily depended on utilisation of forest resources, thereby leading to massive deforestation. In addition to documenting that beekeeping is largely indigenous in practice in the region, the application of the farming system in regaining vegetative cover through reforestation has been broadly explored. Although it can be stated that the poor livelihoods of the people of the northern parts of the country had direct link with utilisation of the forest resources, it is expected that the policymakers should use the available information in rectifying the anomalies towards improving the status of the people of the area economically.

**Keywords:** Beekeeping, bees, deforestation, dynamics, Nigeria, poverty.