

Current Status of Natural Honey Production in India

Gulzar Ahmad Nayik*

*Dept of Food Engineering and Technology, Sant Longowal Institute of
Engineering and Technology Longowal, Punjab India (148106)
E-mail: gulzarnaik@gmail.com*

Abstract—*Beekeeping has a long history in India since ancient times. The diversity in flora and fauna provides more opportunities for the development of bee keeping industry. Majority of the honey production in India comes from more than 500 flowering plant species. The major varieties of natural honey include mustard honey, eucalyptus honey, lychee honey, sunflower honey, karanj honey, multifloral Himalayan honey, acacia honey, wild flora honey etc. Maharashtra and Northeast region of India are the key areas on natural honey production. India has an important place among the top ten honey producing countries since it has a potential for about 30 lakh bee colonies, which are producing over 94,000 metric tonnes of honey per year (2016-17) and providing employment to about 3.00 lakh persons. The country has exported 45537.99 metric tonnes of natural honey to the world for the worth of Rs. 563.21 crore during the year of 2016-17. The major export destinations were USA, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Canada and Bangladesh (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, APEDA, 2016-17).*

Keywords: *Natural Honey; Beekeeping; bee colony; employment; mustard honey.*