

HONEY PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

PROSHIKA's honey production and marketing program is one of the most promising, environment-friendly and income generating activities. Honey production program involves less investment and time yet yields high returns. PROSHIKA produces honey in the process of *Epis melifera*. The species produces more honey, and is less sensitive to infection and disease, is easily manageable and needs a small place to keep with less labor and less capital. In the past, honey was produced by rearing *Serena* or native species of bees. In this process a bee colony could produce a maximum of 10 kg of honey, while the *Epis melifera* colony produces an average of 60 kg. Considering all the above factors related to bee-keeping, the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) has approved a simpler and more profitable technology of bee-keeping for honey production and included it in their technology packages. This technology is now being replicated widely by different organizations all over the country. PROSHIKA honey is collected from local litchi flowers, mustard flowers, coriander/ black cumin and various flower sources in the *Sundarbans*.



Table 5: The number of existing bee colony and frame

Type	Existing	Plan	Achievement
Bee colony (Including bees)	70	15	0
Bee frame (Including bees)	390	100	0
Program staff	4	1	1

PROSHIKA bee colony has been set up at *Tengra, Tepi Bari, Maona and Gazipur* in the financial year 2020-2021. From these areas, bees can collect nectar and pollen from various flowers of nature and the condition of the bees is satisfactory of this area.

Due to various natural calamities the number of bees in the bee colony decreases at a higher rate. As a result, honey production also decreases proportionately. The progress of this program in the current financial year is shown in next page:

Table 6: Honey production, income-expenditure and profit.

Type	Quantity (Kg)	Quantity (After processing)	Price (Per Kg)	Total (Tk.)
Honey of mustard flower	501	470	350	165,900
Honey of coriander / black cumin	111	111	600	66,600
Honey of litchi flower	169	160	400	64,000
Net	781	745	---	296,500

Income from Selling honey = 2, 96,500 (Tk.)

Operating expenditure = 1, 57,980 (Tk.)

Net Income = 1, 38,560 (Tk.)