Building livelihoods and an industry; one farming family at a time....
Traditional local hive: comb is simply removed and crushed to extract honey.
Traditional hive in clay water jar propped in tree: Bees are completely chased out with fire. Comb is crushed to extract honey.
Beekeeping and Honey production in Kisii, Kenya: The Benefits

- Healthy bee population
- Diseases and pests minimal
- Relatively low use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers.
- Ample, year round tree blossom fodder: papaya, avocado, caliandra, grevaria, mango, loquat, star fruit, many local flowering trees and shrubs.
- Ample crop fodder in highly agricultural region.
- High local demand and acceptance as an important and beneficial food.
- High quality, light amber honey.
- Willing and ready farmers to learn new techniques and approaches to beekeeping and honey production.
Hives modeled after Langstroth Hives installed like traditional top bar hives in trees.
Lack of education on effective and humane bee management and honey harvesting.
Lack of understanding of bee behavior, general perception that all insects are harmful.
Aggressive bees.
Lack of extraction services for Langstroth hives.
Lack of marketing mechanisms for smallholder farmers.
Small family plots with limited space: ½ acre to 2 acres average.
KIReeCo's program includes: intensive training on humane bee management and honey production with Langstroth Hives.
Testing of all trained beekeepers on information taught.
Oral Tests given to those who cannot read.
Certification of all beekeepers with passing grade.
Kisii Beekeepers Association: member association for KiReeco trained beekeepers to assist in marketing of honey.
Kisi Beekeepers Association: Family savings program in partnership with Kenya Commercial Bank. Those scoring 100% on their tests were given 100 shillings to open their savings accounts.
Kisii Beekeepers Association partnership with Kenya Commercial Bank; Manager Francis Rambui signing up Association members for savings accounts.
Micro-Finance revolving Fund Loan program to place a Langstroth Hive with each trained and certified beekeeper.
Agnes Ngare, aged 40 years. Agnes is the second wife in a polygamous family. She has 4 children of her own and supports 2 other orphans; one in secondary school and one girl, a school drop-out, with 2 small children of her own.
Yuvilansia Kemunto Migosi, 60 year old, has been a widow since 1981. She has 6 children of her own and has 3 relatives and an additional child living in the household. She has 11 grandchildren.
Printina Kemunto is 40 years old and is a single parent with 2 children. She lives with her parents.
Francesca Moraa is 60 years old and along with her husband, supports 7 children and 14 grandchildren. Francesca was one of the beekeeping students who took their certification test orally, as she never had the chance to go to school to learn how to read. Francesca got 95% on her oral test.
ST. Theresa's Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Centre:
Secondary School Beekeeping Demonstration and Education Program

- Life Skills Training
- Humane Animal Husbandry Education
- Organic Farming and Food Production Training
- Job Skills Training
- Community Service and Community Education
KiReeCo’s Beekeeping Demonstration and Education program at St. Theresa’s OVC: student beekeepers Ignatius, Dennis, Bosire, and Amos.
Community Beekeeping Education Outreach: visiting schools learn about beekeeping
Langstroth Hive Production job skills program: Beekeeping student Nelis painting woodenware.
Beekeeping students Jacob and Ignatius learning carpentry skills
Hive check for Kenyan Top Bar Hive: Dismis and Jacob
KiReeCo Beekeeping 3 day training and hive loan program extended to: Nyamache, Tabaka, Gotichaki, Magombo Communities. Marani Community (second cohort): app. 300 farmers.

Demonstration apiary (5 hives) and income generation. St. Theresa`s OVC Centre Production Garden

Apiary (10 hives) and Organic Farming Demonstration Garden. Partnership with KARI (Kenya Agricultural Research Institute).

Income strategy for hive loan program:
1. Kisii Organics extraction services for Langstroth hive owners.
2. Kisii Organics commercial apiary design and maintenance service.

Kisii Organics Honey: product development and bottling. Partnership with KIRDI (Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute).