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| **Tile of the thesis** | Status of Beekeeping in the Chenab Valley of Jammu Division Over Time |
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**ABSTRACT**

The beekeeping is derived from a Latin “apiscultura” apis means ‘ bee' cultura means “cultivation through education”. The beekeeping is an art and skill of maintaining the bees in modern movable frame hives for hobby production of hive products like ( honey, beeswax, royal jelly, propolis, pollen, venom etc.). The task of development of important beekeeping industry was entrusted to the newly constituted All India “Khadi and Village Industries Commission” (KVIC) in 1956. It was only after establishment of KVIC at central level and Khadi and Village Industry Board at the state level that beekeeping industry could receive due attention for its development through scientific intervention ( Kumar *et al*.2010). Beekeeping is a excellent source of employment for the rural unemployed currently approximately 250,000 farmers in India are employed through beekeeping (Kej riwal,2012) .Apiculture is one of the most widespread agricultural activities that are practiced all over the world. The place of origin of 70% of the honeyed plant that grow in the world is Anatolia (Tzob, 2006). 56 million hives exit in the world and 1.9 million tons of honey is produced from these hives. 1/4thof produced honey is subject to trade and 90% of the exports come from nearly 20 honey producing countries (FAO, 2018).China is the leading honey producing country in the world with a production of about 447 thousand metric tons.To find out the Keeping in view the importance of this income generating enterprise a proposed study entitled “STATUS OF BEEKEEPING IN THE CHENAB VALLEY OF JAMMU DIVISION OVER TIME .Based on the feasibility, Longitudinal research design was followed. The study were conducted in Ramban district purposively. Ramban district revisited for study purpose to find out the changes in beekeeping over time. A Ph.D. Study entitled “A multi-dimensional study on production and management system of apiculture farming in Jammu region” was conducted in 2011 .The data for the same was collected in Ramban district in 2011. Out of Ramban, Rajouri, Jammu and Kathua districts covered under the study, Ramban district was revisited as maximum numbers of beekeepers in the Jammu region are from same district. One hundred twenty beekeepers were selected for study purposively. In case of sample attrition since 2011, an additional sample was drawn from the study area to make a total sample of 120 beekeepers.Total sample size for the proposed study was 120. Results show that the average age of the beekeepers was 46.02(±1.4) years, respectively. The mean education of the beekeepers was 6.5(±0.66) respectively. Most of the respondents lies between marginal farm size categorization in (93.33%) respectively and having average land holding was 0.42(±0.16), respectively.Majority of beekeepers seek information regarding beekeeping practices from fellow beekeepers and Agriculture department. The source of income of the beekeepers was beekeeping (100%) It was also observed from the study that there was adoption of beekeeping practices like rearing of queen bee(85%),sugar feeding(100%), multiplication and uniting(100%). The results further highlighted that there was significant change in the income and production of honey . It was also revealed that training variable significantly affected adoption of beekeeping practice disseminated by Agriculture department. Adoption of beekeeping practice is very low so field extension functionaries need to work more and more in close cohesion with beekeepers to improve adoption practices of beekeeping.

**Keywords:** Apiculture, Adoption, Training, Rearing queen bee, Winter packing, Sugar feeding,

Signature of Major Advisor Signature of the Student