



PROJECT PROFILE

**Apiculture chain
integrated to the
production of special
coffee for the
diversification of income
of families in the
community of Capucas,
Copán, Honduras.**

Presentado por:

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Justificación

In the community of Capucas, Copán, the main activity is the cultivation of coffee, which is the livelihood that has generated income and employment in the population. There are 50 producers who, on average, have farms of 3.34mz (2.33 ha), with approximately an average of a manzana per member grown with coffee.

However, the coffee practice is threatened by the effects of climate change, low international prices and high production costs that keep producers burdened and in search of new alternatives. In the aforementioned context, producers are required to use various techniques and technologies to adapt and produce more than one agricultural or service product on their farm.

The production of honey represents a viable option, economically profitable and of fast incorporation in the farms, it is an activity that has been developed for a long time and has the experience of partners of the Capucas Coffee Cooperative (COCAFCAL) which will allow this group of producers introduce and perfect new techniques and instruments for the management, care and maintenance of bees.

The cooperative provides technical assistance, training, financing and commercialization of Apis Melifera and Melipona honey. Currently, there is a small honey processing plant and a warehouse space where it is stored under conditions that ensure its quality. In addition, Capucas is part of the 4 organizations with beekeepers legally registered according to the new apiculture regulation. However, it is necessary to strengthen the apiculture chain and incorporate more producers into this process.

We also highlight that producers, in addition to producing honey and selling it, bees on the farm can better pollinate coffee plants. 5% more productivity is obtained in coffee plantations and up to 30% in other species. The initial investment can be recovered after 2 years of installing the apiary.

Area of intervention

The area of intervention of the project will be the department of Copán, municipality of San Pedro, specifically in the community of Capucas, country of Honduras.

In the territory there is the largest production of quality coffee and is channeled by more than 1,200 producers through the Cooperativa Cafetalera Capucas Limitada.

Beneficiaries: 50 small producers from the community of Capucas, Copán, with an average of 0.5 mz to 3 mz of coffee cultivation.

Objectives of the Project

Next, the general objective and the specific objectives of the project are presented.

General Objective

- Improve family economic diversification with the incorporation of systems for the production of honey and derivatives in specialty coffee farms.

Specific objectives

- Implement 50 new apiaries for coffee families in the community of Capucas.
- Contribute to the improvement of the honey production system through a process of training and technical assistance

Components and activities

The project will have three components:

1. Incorporation of honey production systems.
2. Strengthening the small producer in beekeeping.
3. Associativity and alliances

These components are focused on the generation of knowledge and empowerment to generate sustainability of the project and contribute to the establishment of a stronger beekeeping chain.

Amigos del Café Foundation and COCAFAL will be responsible for executing the three components within a period of eight (8) months. Below, each of the components is detailed.

1. Incorporation of honey production systems

In this component includes the implementation of an apiary consisting of two hives with all the infrastructure, equipment, materials necessary for the proper functioning of the honey production system, this component has as a strength the Capucas honey program, the cooperative promotes the production of honey among its associates under the production standards that mark the certifications of fair trade and organic.

One of the priority stages to start the project is the selection of beneficiaries, since there will be commitments with each one, prioritizing those who manifest interest, attitude and responsibility to assume the work of implementation of apiaries in their farms. It will also use the Resource Sharing methodology or what is known as a chain pass, in which the 50 beneficiary producers after one year will be committed to benefit one more producer with the same support received by the project,

Scope: Each producer will be given a technological package to develop the activity and having acquired the knowledge necessary to manage an apiary, only its

installation remains and the following factors should be considered:

1. Definition of the species of bee to be used in the hives.
2. Type of box or hive that will be used for the production of honey.
3. Analyze the honey-bearing capacity of the vegetation in the geographical area where the hives will be placed, the periods of greatest flowering and the critical periods.
4. Define the apicultural load of the area depending on the availability of honey flowers.
5. Study the techniques for the selection of the sites where the hives will be placed, as well as the orientation of the colonies depending on the prevailing winds.
6. The separation between apiaries will be between 3 and 4 km.
7. Availability of water in the vicinity, if there is no water you must have drinking troughs.
8. Technical training on bee management and honey production under modern beekeeping systems.

1. Strengthening the small producer in beekeeping.

Beekeeping is another valuable resource for a coffee farmer, the family will be directly benefited, since in addition to producing honey and selling it, bees on the farm can better pollinate coffee plants and other crops such as citrus and avocados. In this sense and knowledge the contribution that apiculture gives to biodiversity, priority has been given to producers in the buffer zone of the Celaque National Park.

To strengthen the producer, support will be considered through training in:

1. Biology of bees and installation of apiaries.
2. Modern management of hives
3. More frequent diseases that affect bees and how to treat them.
4. Multiplication of the hives
5. Harvesting, honey processing and other derivatives

Scope: For the strengthening of the producer there will be a training plan prioritizing the weaknesses and threats of the beekeeper in the Capucas area. For this component, we have the experience of Capucas. For the development of the trainings, we will work with field days based on the training curriculum used by Heifer International

1. Associativity and alliances

One of the key factors for success is the importance of having strong producer organizations equipped with efficient internal functioning and external institutions that provide efficient support. It takes time for a diversification process to produce its successes.

Scope: Within the component, the coordinator is Fundación Amigos del Café, the responsible institution will be the search for alliances at local and regional level to strengthen the process of implementing a sustainable beekeeping in Capucas and to carry out the training plan. The associativity part prioritizes the coordination of activities in work groups by zones and a council of beekeepers will be established to bring together the 50 producers, in which it will be possible to establish agreements and commitments, share experiences and seek continuous improvement.

Project follow-up:

Amigos del Café Foundation will present reports on each activity and progress reports, training reports with the topics of the module taught, results, photos, attendance lists and the material used for the training.

The follow-up and monitoring for compliance with the implementation proposal by the Amigos del Café Foundation will be in charge of the project unit of the institution, supported by Capucas technicians.

Budget:

The estimated budget for the fulfillment of the activities is \$ 26,927.84

Activities	Quantity	Unit of measurement	Unit price		Total
Component 1. Incorporation of honey production systems					498,000.00
Double hives (productive)	100	Global	3,500.00		350,000.00
Basic equipment (Oberol, veil, gloves, spatula, smoker)	50	Global	2,000.00		100,000.00
Technological kit (increment material, extractor, percolator tray)	2	Global	24,000.00		48,000.00
Component 2. Strengthening the small producer in beekeeping.					40,000.00
Trainings	8	Unidad	5,000.00		40,000.00
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Component 3. Organization and strengthening				-	115,000.00
Wax recuperators for honey group Capucas	2	Unidad	20,000.00		40,000.00
Harvest campaign for honey group Capucas	5	Unidad	5,000.00		25,000.00
					-
Administrative expenses	1	Global	50,000.00		50,000.00
Total		Lempiras		-	653,000.00
		Dólares			26,927.84

