

## About the book

**Asian Bees and Beekeeping: Progress of Research and Development** presents an overview of research and development on bees and beekeeping in Asia, and highlights the issues related to conservation and management of the Asian hive bee, *Apis cerana*. This book is an outcome of the Fourth Asian Apicultural Association (AAA) International Conference organized by AAA and ICIMOD in Kathmandu, Nepal, from March 23-28, 1998. It contains over 150 presentations reflecting beekeeping research and development issues in over 24 countries, and is organised into seventy-two chapters. New frontiers in bee biology research, covering diverse topics such as evaluation and selection of *Apis cerana* populations and the effect of synthetic queen pheromones on behaviour and honey production of *Apis cerana* and *Apis mellifera* are covered. Recent findings on bee diseases and pest control and innovations in apiary management are explained. A section on production, processing, properties, and marketing of different bee products - honey, beeswax, royal jelly, and propolis - has been provided. In addition, new advances in crop pollination research through beekeeping and experiences in extension, covering topics ranging from beekeeping needs and extension methodology in the hill and mountain areas to the role of various research and development institutions in promoting sustainable beekeeping, are given in detail.

**International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)** is the first international Centre in the field of integrated mountain development. Founded out of widespread recognition of environmental degradation of mountain habitats and the increasing poverty of mountain communities, ICIMOD is concerned with the search for more effective development responses to promote the sustained well being of mountain people. The Centre was established in 1983 and commenced professional activities in 1984. Though international in its concerns, ICIMOD focusses on the specific, complex and the practical problems of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, which covers all or part of eight Sovereign States. ICIMOD serves as a multidisciplinary documentation Centre on integrated mountain development; a focal point for mobilisation, conduct and co-ordination of applied and problem-solving research activities; a focal point for training on integrated mountain development, with special emphasis on the assessment on training needs and development of relevant training materials based directly on field case studies; and a consultative Centre providing expert services on mountain development and resource management. At present, ICIMOD is running a four-year programme on 'Indigenous honeybees of the Himalayas: A community-based approach to maintaining bio-diversity and enhancing farm productivity'.

**Asian Apicultural Association (AAA)** devotes itself to address the issues related to Asian beekeeping. Established in 1992, AAA networks with scientists and development workers interested in Asian bees and beekeeping. The main objective of AAA is to promote the exchange of scientific and general information relating to honeybee sciences and apiculture in Asia and to encourage international cooperation in the study of problems of common interest. Although, so far, AAA is not a big organization, it encourages research on the biology and management of honeybee species found in Asia. In order to share knowledge and information, AAA organizes a conference every two years. The first conference that led to the founding of the organization took place in 1992 in Bangkok, Thailand.

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