



KORPORASI PEMBANGUNAN DESA  
KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN DAN INDUSTRI MAKANAN SABAH

# **STINGLESS BEE INDUSTRY**

## **Soaring Towards Sustainability**

International Stingless Bee Conference & Workshop 2019

# BRIEF HISTORY OF HONEY INDUSTRY IN SABAH

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## WILD HONEY GATHERING BEEKEEPING STINGLESS BEEKEEPING

A snapshot of Sabah's beekeeping & honey industry. It describes the physical and cultural environment in which beekeeping is undertaken and describes beekeeping practices commonly employed by beekeepers.

# WILD HONEY GATHERING



TRADITIONAL HONEY GATHERING STARTED LONG TIME AGO.

EACH COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN HISTORY OF TRADITIONAL HONEY GATHERING - METHOD, BEE SPECIES AND SEASON.

THE MOST COMMON SOURCE OF WILD HONEY IN SABAH:  
*Apis dorsata* & *Apis cerana*



*Apis dorsata*

# WILD HONEY GATHERING



Wild honey is collected from the hives of *Apis dorsata* or *Apis cerana* by the wild honey hunters. The bees make their hives on the branches of tall trees or on the underside of overhangs on sheer cliffs.



Honey is drained out from the honey combs by squeezing manually. Some parts of the brood comb may be collected as a source of food for the community.



*Apis cerana*

# WILD HONEY GATHERING

Wild honey is collected at night by climbing up trees with bee nests.



Bamboo pegs

Bamboo pegs are used to hold the bamboo rod and provide grips for the climbers' hands and feet.



Bamboo ladder is constructed by fixing long bamboo rod with bamboo pegs along the tree trunk.



Bamboo ladder

# BEEKEEPING



*Apis cerana*



Korporasi Pembangunan Desa (KPD) initiated a joint study with experts from Canada on commercial beekeeping in Kota Merudu District in 1980.

KPD introduced the first beekeeping project in 1989, involving rural farmers in Kudat, Kota Merudu and a subdistrict of Matunggong in Sabah.

*Apis cerana* was introduced to rural farmers for commercial beekeeping activities.



*Gelodog*



*Gelodog* is a hollow wooden or coconut trunk structure used to capture bee swarm within the surroundings.



Apiary of *Apis cerana*

# STINGLESS BEEKEEPING

Demand of natural honey;  
Challenges in honey hunting &  
keeping of *Apis cerana*

Beekeepers in some  
districts in Sabah began  
stingless beekeeping.



Stingless beekeeping  
becomes more  
popular when MOA  
in 2016, declared  
honey from stingless  
bee as “Malaysian  
*First Superfood*”.



There are more than 33  
stingless bee species have  
been identified in Malaysia.

There are three species  
commonly kept for  
commercial honey  
production:

1. *Trigona thoracica*,
2. *Trigona itama*,
3. *Trigona terminata*.

## ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

# STINGLESS BEE INDUSTRY

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To regulate & control the keeping of bees & the production & sale of honey.

### LACK OF LEGISLATION

Changes of habitats, type of plants, agriculture activities etc.

### DEFORESTRATION

### CHEMICALS USED IN AGRICULTURE

### PROPAGATION

Too much relying on bee colonies from the wild; more human intervention is required to fasten to increase population.



Sekian  
Terima Kasih  
Thank You

