

National Workshop on Lao Forest Honey: a unique local product supporting forest conservation and local development Summary Report



Held at Provincial Governor's Office, Xiengkhuang Province

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Organized by the Department of Forestry/Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry



In collaboration with



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Summary

Lao Forest Honey is gaining in popularity both domestically and in the region. It is an emerging unique Lao product that has been harvested for generations by Lao farmers both cultivated and collected wild in the forest. It is estimated that at least one thousand two hundred (1,200) tons of forest honey can be produced in protected forests of Lao PDR, valued at 5.19 Million USD at local level¹. Currently it is estimated that only 20-30 tons are being produced per year. Beyond that Bees play an essential part of the Lao ecosystem by providing pollination services to many forest fruits.

But how can this be a sustainable enterprise that moves beyond seasonal production whilst maintaining ecosystem integrity?

To this end, this first national meeting on Forest Honey was held and was the 'first national gathering' of Lao Forest Honey enthusiasts. This workshop brought together a huge diversity of participants from five countries in the Asian Region (Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam), along with more than 164 participants (34 women) from 15 provinces in Laos including farmers, NGO staff, government officials and private sector actors. There is great potential to build up a strong pluralistic network and link this to the strong networks within ASEAN.

To maximize learning and exchange, the workshop included different elements including:

- **A Lao Forest Honey Share Fair** which will allow bee keepers to share and exchange experiences, a national honey exhibition to compare honey from different provinces
- **Bee Keeper Exchange** A separate meeting of bee keepers to share and exchange experiences and develop ways to start and improve networking
- **Regional presentations:** presentations from India, Vietnam and Indonesia to learn how Forest Honey is being developed in other regions.
- **National Presentations** from different experiences in Laos and the national marketing study
- **Field trips** to honey raising areas in Xiengkhouang

Some of the key issues that emerged during the workshop included:

- **Technology:** Lao farmers have traditionally kept hollowed out tree trunks or harvested in the wild, production and quality can be greatly enhanced through improved techniques and introduction of new technologies. By improving the efficiency of a hive, especially an Acerana hive one, beekeepers can also increase production and improve profitability.
- There is a huge amount of experience in the region on sustainable production techniques in terms of keeping the colonies from absconding, sustainable extraction of honey, etc. These need to be consolidated and shared more widely to farmers working on forest honey
- **Product development:** By improving the efficiency of a hive, especially an Acerana hive, production can be increased and profitability improved. This can be done by finding new ways to package and market Lao honey. There are opportunities to develop different products from the honey (butter, cosmetics, gifting packages, high quality) but this will require better branding and marketing. Examples from the region again provided good models for what can be done in Lao.
- **Environment:** As with many emerging ecological products, there is a need to find ways to improve production and quality standards whilst ensuring that sustainability. In terms of harvesting essential farmers need to improve how honey is extracted without disturbing the brood. Likewise, the value of pollination services for crops and ecosystem services has not been studied. This will be important to understand the role it plays to ensure a healthy ecosystem.

¹ From: [Marketing of Lao Forest Honey – Learning Brief, NAFRI and TABI, 2018](#)

- **Marketing:** Production is scattered and there are opportunities to bring together honey producers to provide a more stable and consistent market. Examples of honey networks and groups from the region provided good models for how community enterprises can be developed. There is potential for linking farmers to national and regional markets.
- **Branding:** There is a need to create a ‘Lao Brand’ or quality control for Honey. While ODOP could support recognition of local honey enterprises, national quality control is needed to assure buyers of quality and support.
- **Policy/institutional:** There are no specific policies related to Forest honey or honey production. Likewise, few standards exist for certifying honey.
- **Knowledge:** knowledge on bee keeping is fading in Laos. Knowledge from the older generation is not being passed down. Likewise, there is no center of excellence for bee-keeping in Laos. The main expert at the National University/Faculty of Agriculture has retired and there is no active bee-keeper association.
- **Youth entrepreneurship:** those who are collecting forest honey, are mainly the older generation of farmers. There is a need to promote Lao Forest Honey as a legitimate agri-enterprise and to promote it in schools and college curricula.

Based on the working group the top main actions points and recommendations include:

Area	What	Who
Networking	Establish a website/Facebook page to share and exchange knowledge on a regular basis	TABI/GCDA
	Develop a network list of villages where there is organized production and processing	TABI/GCDA
Marketing/ branding	Develop unique and attractive image for Lao Forest Honey in line with Lao policies on nice market products, green agriculture and “Uniquely Lao”	GCDA/TABI and Xiengkhouang network
	Promote Lao Honey at Trade-Fairs and green agriculture product festivals	
Policy	Support development of certification processes for Lao Forest Honey to ensure quality and relations to consumers	DoA/MOSTE
	Develop appropriate policies to support development of Lao Forest Honey industry	DoF
Adding value	Look to add value in certain ways to honey, wax, agritourism, pollen	
Standards	Develop a honey standard for forest honey based on regional certification	DoA
Working with youth	Integrate with the curriculum in secondary, post-secondary, vocational and university	TABI
	Produce Information Education materials on “Importance of Honey” and disseminating via social media e.g: Facebook, website, line	GCDA, TABI and others
	Provide training for Youth, interested in Bee raising or entrepreneur to create value added products	Xiengkahouang network
	Organize event/activity for Youth to participate in the honey processing, packaging, and create branding by themselves	

1. Background and objectives

Communities all throughout Laos collect and manage forest honey whether from natural hives or boxes placed in the forest by villagers². The honey provides supplementary income to farmers and is used in local medicine and food. Throughout Asia, forest honey is seen as a healthier and medically beneficial option compared to commercially produced honey using raised bees. Honey is also an important indicator species for agro-biodiversity health. Where there are wild honey bees, there is often healthy and diverse agriculture and forest biodiversity.

The government of Lao PDR considers honey as a Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) which can clearly demonstrate the linkages between forest and environmental conservation efforts and local livelihood development of farmers. Forest honey is also being promoted in a number of countries including Vietnam, Indonesia and India. As such, it is an emerging topic of interest in ASEAN's community forest enterprises or CFEs through the ASEAN working group on social forestry.

There are a number of initiatives around the country to improve the production of honey. This workshop brought together participants from around the region along with more than 150 participants from 10 provinces in Laos including farmers, NGO staff, government officials and private sector actors.

The specific objectives were to:

- Share experiences in development and promotion of Lao Forest Honey: from collection, harvesting, beekeeping, processing, marketing and branding
- Identify key opportunities and challenges in further developing Lao Forest Honey and recommendations for further support
- Create greater awareness of the benefits and unique properties of Lao Honey
- Explore best ways to support improved networking, communication and coordination in the sector amongst different actors (farmers, Civil society, Government and Private Sector)

The workshop was as the 'first national gathering' of Lao Forest Honey enthusiasts. It included a number of different elements including:

- **Bee Keeper Exchange:** A separate meeting of bee keepers allowed them to share and exchange experiences and develop ways to start and improve networking
- **A Lao Forest Honey Share Fair** provided the space for participants to share and exchange experiences, a national honey exhibition to compare honey from different provinces. Lao honey was served throughout the workshop along with local coffee and snacks to promote Lao products
- **Regional presentations:** presentations from India, Vietnam and Indonesia to learn how Forest Honey is being developed in other regions.
- **National Presentations** from different experiences in Laos and the national marketing study
- **Field trips** to honey raising areas in Xiengkhouang

This workshop reports provide an overview the key main presentations, key findings from the workshop and recommendations on ways forward.

² Forest honey is defined as honey harvested from the natural forests, also referred to as wild honey, whether it is from natural hives or from boxes permanently located in the forest without human interference except during swarming or harvesting

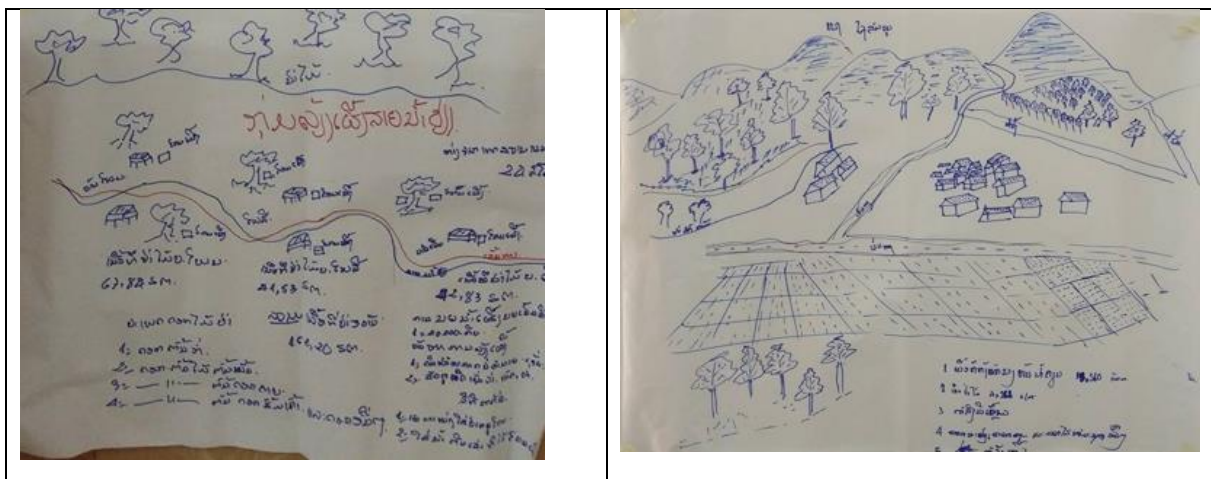
2. Summary of Experiences

The meeting was opened by the Deputy Governor of Xiengkhouang Province, Mr. Khampao Moua, the Head of the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office, Mr. Khamsy Chanthavongsy, Deputy District Governor, Muang Pek Mr. Kongthanou Ounsavanh and Dr. Chanh Samone Phoungdoune, Deputy Director of NAFRI. The Deputy Provincial Governor welcomed all the guests to Xiengkhouang and was pleased to see so many different people from abroad. This highlighted the importance of the workshop as well as increasing interest in Xiengkhouang as a tourist destination and ecologically friendly agriculture space. Each of the honored speakers emphasized the increasing potential of honey bee raising as a high value niche market product. They also mentioned the importance moving honey raising from a seasonal past-time to a full-time occupation which would provide better benefits to farmers.



2.1 Summary of farmer exchange

The first day of the workshop brought together 74 participants, from around 17 honey production groups from 15 provinces to share their own experience on bee keeping. Each group or province was asked to share their experiences with honey production by drawing landscapes and sharing issues and problems.



The main challenges raised by the bee-keepers include:

- Marketing, standard price for honey in each group is different, some of them can sell honey 35,000 kip per kg while other groups can sell 100,000 kip per kg.
- Lack of specialized and technical skills such as how to use or produce the queens, crystallization of honey and humid control.
- Increasing use of pesticide and chemicals in agriculture affects the bees.
- Climate change such as in Xiengkhuang long cool weather, too short and too long rainy season effect to bees
- Lack of equipment and resources to improve how production and processing are carried out as well as funding to support such investments.

2.2 Summary of exhibition

More than 20 displays were exhibited throughout the three days of the workshop. Regional honey experts brought a range of products which provided inspiration. Almost every province that attended shared their honey, different hive houses and methods for processing and management were shared allowing participants to learn directly from one another. The pictures below highlight the information market.



As part of this a honey contest was carried out to identify [the 'best tasting' honey](#). The blind tasting was held over three days during which 16 producers' honeys were sampled. The honeys were displayed in glass cups and participants took turns dipping their spoons into each honey, sniffing and tasting them and inspecting their color and clarity. As shown below, it is hard to know what is the best honey as each has a different color, consistency and taste.



This is because the bees are feeding on different types of flowers in different forest types. This highlights the range of honey and potential for making a range of products. Based on a voting of preferences three villages were selected as having the 'best tasting honey'. The winners were:

1. Ban Choey, Phoukoud District, Xiengkhuang
2. Phosy village, Paek District, Xiengkhuang
3. Naxay Charuen village, Chomphet District, Luang Prabang



2.3 Summary of presentation

All presentations in Lao and English can be found on the TABI website [here](#). In total 11 presentations were made at the workshop.

The [keynote presentation](#) focused on the status of Forest Honey in Laos. Lao Forest honey fetches a higher price than commercially produced honey from regional neighbours and there is a growing interest both from domestic companies and regional purchasers for Lao Forest honey. Likewise, there is still much untapped potential. It is estimated that at least one thousand two hundred (1,200) tons of forest honey can be produced in protected forests of Lao PDR, valued at 5.19 Million USD at local level. Currently it is estimated that only 20-30 tons are being produced per year.

The second set of presentations presented a number of experiences from around the country. A [short video from the Association for Sustainable Natural Beekeeping](#), Oudomxay was also shown.

The [presentation on Xiengkhouang highlighted](#) that three projects (TABI, GCDA and TERRA) are supporting more than 500 farmers being support to produce around 8 tons of forest honey per year. There is high potential for expanding Forest Honey produced due to extensive forest area and good traditional knowledge complemented by outside technical support. The main challenges though are being able to produce outside of season, increased pesticide and chemical use, and lack of trained young people to replace elder generation of bee-keepers.

Another presentation from the Global Association for People and the Environment (GAPE) Laos focused on natural forest [honey collection in the South of Laos](#). In the south, most people collect directly from the forest from natural hives. The challenge here is not to destroy the brood for the hives themselves. Different villages have put in place a rules and regulations to manage. The main challenge here is decreasing quality of honey due to loss of habitat. The final presentation summarized the lessons from the farmer exchange (see above).

There were four regional presentations showing different issues related forest honey management:

1. [Vietnam presented](#) some of the technical aspects of raising forest honey Bees. Forest honey exports have increased in Vietnam to more than 47 tons. The main challenges here is quality and making sure that 'false honey' does not use the forest honey brand.

2. [From India](#), lessons focused on developing small scale forest enterprise groups around honey and product development. The presentation highlighted a number of different honey enterprises as well as different types of products produced
3. [From Indonesia](#), the focus was on establishing the Forest Honey Network Indonesia (JMHI). The presentation highlighted the need for partnerships between government, farmers and private sector. It also highlighted the range of products and packaging that can be done to 'add value' to the honey. This included making gifting packages which can be handed out at official functions
4. A [regional presentation from the NTFP Exchange program](#) highlighted the potential of Honey to improve more than 7 million ha of forestry land. Asian markets area important and substantial, especially for high quality and attractively packaged honey. The regional forest honey movement and gathering, Madhu Duniya, was also highlighted

Finally, two presentations were made in relation to policy and forest honey. The first presented an [overview of the Forest Policy](#) in relation to honey production. It mentioned that Honey is seen as an NTFP product and therefore governed by the Forestry Law. Currently there is potential to link forest honey to village forestry and NTFP management in Laos. The final presentation was on the [One District One Product \(ODOP\)](#) initiative which allows for the promotion of local products. Forest Honey could be one product that is certified by ODP.

2.4 Summary of discussion and key issues from presentations

Overall the key issues that arose in discussions and in relation to the presentations included:

- There is a huge amount of experience in the region on sustainable production techniques in terms of keeping the colonies from absconding, sustainable extraction of honey, etc. These need to be consolidated and shared more widely to farmers working on forest honey
- There are no official standards for forest honey in Laos. – How can a simple, cost effective participatory guarantee system be developed to ensure the quality of Lao honey.
- An aging population of bee-keepers: those who are collecting forest honey, are mainly the older generation of farmers. There is a need to promote Lao Forest Honey as a legitimate agri-enterprise and to promote it in schools and college curricula.
- Honey is sold in an informal basis to local traders. There is potential for linking farmers to national and regional markets. There is also potential for improving the image of Lao Honey.
- The importance of network was highlighted to share experiences and begin developing new ideas on products, research, quality standards and local certification processes.
- Production is scattered and there are opportunities to bring together honey producers to provide a more stable and consistent market. Examples of honey networks and groups from the region provided good models for how community enterprises can be developed
- There are few examples of products developed from honey and hive by-products. This could very well improve returns of farmers from bee products and deserves attention.
- Honey production in Laos is low but there is perceived quality. There are opportunities to develop different products from the honey (butter, cosmetics, gifting packages, high quality) but this will require better product development, branding and marketing. Examples from the region again provided good models for what can be done in Lao.
- There is also a need to increase consumer awareness of both domestic and international markets about Lao Honey. It could be important to promote especially the health benefits of forest honey. While ODOP could support recognition of local honey enterprises, national quality control is needed to assure buyers of quality and support.

- The issue of forest degradation due to over-logging and encroachment of commercial agriculture were brought up as major threats to honey production and bee populations. The linkages between bees and healthy environment need to be further investigated. Value of bees on ecosystem has not been valued and is high and not valued pollination services

2.5 Field visit

On the morning of Day 2, participants went to six different field locations to look at how honey is being produced locally. Participants went to the following villages:

- Ban Laithong, Phoukoudt District – TABI has just supported villagers to construct a honey learning and processing center. This will be a place for better production for around the area.
- Ban Phousy, Pek District – GCDA has been working with villagers to improve production and marketing here. They have also trained women to make lipstick from bees' wax
- Ban Phanxay – a village within the TABI network that is producing Honey
- Ban Phon – another village within the TABI network where villagers are producing honey on a medium scale

This was a good time of year for visiting as it was at the height of honey season. Unfortunately for various reasons honey production was quite low for this time of year. That said, the participants were able to see different experiences from farmers who carry out honey raising.

3. Working groups

The participants were divided into six working groups to develop recommendations and actions plans around some of the key areas identified during the workshop. Each group spent Day 3 brainstorming on issues, opportunities and challenges. On Day 4, the focus was on action planning and providing concrete ways forward. The summary below provides a brief overview of each working group

3.1 Developing a National Network

This group focused on the developing a national network of farmers, producers and honey supporters. It was agreed that the network should have concrete objectives, regulations and oversight. It was also encouraged to start from the village level up. The main opportunities for the network included:

- More opportunities for learning and sharing
- Help farmers and groups solve problems
- Create various products from honey
- Begin improving the stability of honey price
- Create credibility of Lao Honey Product
- Improve farmer bargaining power
- Creative more market opportunity and chance to improve branding

Agreed that the network could be broad in participation and include:

- Beekeeping group/association in provincial level
- Farmers/bee keepers
- Traders/buyers
- Government
- NTFPs project, CSOs & INGOs

- Researchers and Academics

Main next steps agreed upon were to:

Activities	Who
Organize the key coordinator for start up network	GCA, Medical Plant Institute of XKH Military, GCDA, Bee keeping groups: ABSO, Oudomxai, Khoun Dist and Paek Dist, TABI
Find out actual data of beekeeping group/associations in provincial level	GCA, Medical Plant Institute of XKH Military, GCDA, Bee keeping groups: ABSO, Oudomxai, Khoun Dist and Paek Dist, TABI
Define core value, TOR, Goal, Vision, Rules and criteria of members	GCA, Medical Plant Institute of XKH Military, GCDA, Bee keeping groups: ABSO, Oudomxai, Khoun Dist and Paek Dist
Promote network	Set up a facebook page to get people involved or share information. Community radio/TV, social media, TABI

3.2 Standards and Quality

This working group focused on the need to better enable standards and ways to ensure trust with buyers and traders. A main message that came out is that there is a need for more research to be done on different tastes and qualities of honey in each specific location. This could help in developing products for ODOP. The group identified three main areas of recommendations:

- Develop a common standardization for Lao PDR in regards to Honey certification and must be in-line with regional and international standards. There are currently Coda in Thailand that could be used as an example
- There are opportunities to learn from experiences in Asia and adapt to local context. Encouraged to exchange experience and adapt with other country and within among the farmer group
- More communication and awareness raising is necessary to make public understand about the standard of quality of Lao Forest Honey and what to look for. There is a need to dispel myths about color, crystallization and taste

Some of the main research gaps included:

- Understanding the value that pollinations services provide to landscapes and impacts of development on honey production: illegal logging, Dams, industrial agriculture, climate change, etc.
- Research on developing standards and 'grades' for different types of Honey
- Research on marketing and processing for commodity and export

Some main next steps are to:

- Continue testing Lao Forest Honey to better understand properties and benefits of different type of honey from different parts of the country
- Develop some standards and easy certification procedures to build more confidence in the honey being produced.

3.3 Marketing, Branding, Labeling

This group focused on some of the key issues related to improving the overall markets in Laos. Overall there is high opportunity as the market for Lao Forest Honey is not yet saturated. There is traders at all levels so farmers have a choice. There is also both domestic and export demand and the trend is increasing for forest honey.

A key lesson learned so far is the need for clear branding and marketing to ensure quality and consumer trust. There is a need to create this trust through high value products. Some of the main issues identified included:

- Packaging information is not clear. Sometimes too much, sometimes too little.
- Lack of certification or trust between farmer and consumer. Need to find ways to build this trust. No quality certified that's why the customer are not trust to buy
- The price is uncertain and large disparities between each province,. There is also confusion as to what is fake or real honey because of this.
- There is no permanent space for selling honey or central place to purchase.
- No advertisement for Lao honey on mass media such as: Facebook, television radio,
- Branding is not clear and uncertain who is actually producing. Need to find ways to develop innovative and modern branding.

Agreed that there is a need to do more market research and also better link up producers in a network to gain economies of scale and market share. Some of the target markets identified included: Health companies, medical factories and speciality beverage factor, Cosmetics and relaxation industry, souvenir shops, overseas networks, tourists, and hotels, grocery stores.

Some of the main action points are provided below

Activities	Who responsible
Develop Lao honey Marketing research data	Product, GoL, university
Quality control system of Lao honey (certificate include bar code)	Ministry of Health, DoA
Identify central sellers	Viengsod's store in XHK
Develop unique and attractive packaging and add information	Entrepreneur, group production, Science and Technology
Build the network and scale up on nationwide and oversea, planning of Strategy plan and concrete goal together	Entrepreneur, group production
Identify and focus market	Entrepreneur

3.4 Value Addition

This group brought together technical experts to discuss the quality and value addition of honey. There was good interaction between regional experts and local bee keepers.

The following areas were focused on in terms of value addition and making new products

Part of Honey	What can be done
Honey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Separating honey type: from tree, box, or cliff and ensure uniqueness. ○ Packaging and branding ○ Smell and taste improvement such as adding Ginger, Cinnamon, etc
Wax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make candle ○ Make Soap ○ Make therapy balm ○ Make Honey lip balm
Pollen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make pollen trap ○ Make capsule
Honey milk	Less of possibility for Lao, because the beehive is small and very important to use beehive for feeding the queen bee
Bee keeping tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improvement and empowerment for honey group ○ Honey quality improvement ○ Make honey farm(garden) ○ Make data information and advertise in hotel and restaurant ○ Make beekeeping training and wild honey harvesting

Some of the key challenges identified included:

- Too much humidity in honey because of storage and processing
- Not enough production processing knowledge
- Lack machinery and processes to reduce humidity in honey
- The processing machine are expensive and import from oversea
- Not enough equipment and processing skills
- Not enough confident on market support
- Lack of unified price
- Not enough advertising skill in country
- Investment and donor support in the sector are lacking

It was agreed there should be further training and skill development in the country. Experts could share information and knowledge in face to face exchanges or through internet and social media.

3.5. Youth in honey production

In order to make to sustain interest in forest honey there is a need to make the occupation or trader attractive to the youth. Currently many of the honey keepers are older people and it is seems as an elderly pastime as opposed to a business opportunity. It was identified that there is a lack of “Lao language” information about Bee Raising, marketing and honey bee products. In addition, bee keeping requires patience which many youth don't have.

Some of the best ways to reach the youth include:

- Integrate with the curriculum in secondary, post-secondary, vocational and university
- Produce Information Education materials on “Importance of Honey” and disseminating via socials media e.g: Facebook, Instragram, website, line
- Provide opportunities for youth to get involved in marketing

- Provide training for Youth, who interested in Bee raising or entrepreneur to create value added products
- Organize event/activity for Youth to participate in the honey processing, packaging, and create branding by themselves

It was agreed to get more students and youth involved in current activities particularly in Xiengkhouang such as:

- Building village for study tour and learning place on Bee raising for general people
- Training on processing of product from honey e.g. Lipstick, bee wax lip balm, honey cream, honey soap
- Training on technical skills on bee raising and study tour for Youth
- Create website or Facebook page in Lao language for online learning and exchange, building honey network

3.6 Policy related support

Currently there are few policies related specifically to honey production or supporting honey production in Laos. The main areas that relate include:

- Creation of production groups and regulations
- Policies on Forestry and Non-Timber Products Conservation
- Promoting industrial plantation and fruit trees
- Upgrade NTFPs to be the potential product for trading and marketing
- Support to securing markets marketing through certification, ODOP and other opportunities.
- Policies on safe chemical use and pesticide management.

It was agreed that there need to be clear policies in place to support forest honey production but these should be based on research particularly in terms of marketing and evaluating the impacts of chemicals and pesticides on forest honey production.

The types of policy support identified include:

- Product quality standards
- Certified Honey Quality
- Improve trademarks, labels and packaging of honey products
- Price stability
- Marketing

Key actions points, included:

- Create rules and regulations for conservation and management of forestry honey
- Produce more hollow tree trunks or bee boxes to support production
- Develop standards and certification schemes for forestry honey
- Continue to support and expand Bee keeping in different areas of the country and provide regular training of Bee keeping, maintaining, and honey harvesting
- Support improved marketing of honey

4. Conclusions

The meeting was concluded by the District Governor of Phoukoudt District, the Head of PAFO and Dr. Chanhsamone from NAFRI. In addition, Ms. Crissy Guerrero from the NTFP Exchange Program provided some reflections from the region.

Overall, it was evident there is a huge diversity of enthusiasts, farmers, entrepreneurs, civil society, government officials and even medical professionals interested in Honey. This presents a great opportunity to create a network and better link and harness this diverse group of stakeholder. Laos produced a mid-range amount of high-quality honey but cannot compete with the larger producers from Vietnam and Thailand. Thus, it needs to win through developing innovative products and reaching the niche markets. There is still a range of technical issues to overcome in relation to bee-raising, management, harvesting and processing. However, this can be overcome through better networking and linking to regional networks. It was also seen there is great potential for community-based processing and value addition. This would be one way to involve the youth more in honey production by transforming bee keeping from a seasonal activities to an actual business opportunity.

Annex 1: Overall agenda

Day 1: Monday, May 21

Time	What	Responsible
8.00 – 5.00pm	Lao Beekeeper exchange <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitated exchange between bee keepers from around Laos focused on issues related to production, processing, marketing and financing of honey 	Noy/Malaiphet
	Preparation of the Lao Forest Honey Share Fair	Kook/Chinda
	Arrival of participants	

Day 2: Tuesday May 22

Time	Agenda Item	Responsible
8:00 - 8:30	Registration	TABI Team
8:30 - 9:00	Introductions and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome speech, PAFO, Xiengkhouang - Opening speech, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 	Host: Vice Governor Chair: MAF
9:00 – 9:15	Overview of Workshop, expectations and getting to know each other	Chinda Malayvong
	Session 1: Overview of Honey	
9:15 - 9:45	Overview of forest honey and native beekeeping in Laos: prospects and challenges	Dr. Chanhsamone Phongoudome (NAFRI) and Soutsada Chanthasiri (DECA)
	Break and group photo	
9:45 – 12:00	Open Share Fair Open Fair to share exchange demonstrations, tastings and presentations, etc.	Chinda Malayvong
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
	Session 2: Experiences in Lao Forest Honey Production	
	Film on Honey Experiences from Oudomxay (Association for Extension of Sustainable Natural Beekeeping, Oudomxay)	
13:00 – 13:20	Experiences in Honey from Xiengkhouang	Malaiphet Pusavanh and Amphone Vanhnamahaxay
13:20 – 13:40	Wild Honey Indigenous Knowledge for Collection and Mgmt. Issues in Champasak	Khampanh Keovilaysak, GAPE

Time	Agenda Item	Responsible
13:40 – 14:00	Lessons from Bee Keeping Exchange on Day 1	Farmer Representative
14:00 – 14:30	Discussion and questions	Chair to facilitate
14:30 – 14:45	Coffee Break	
	Session 3: Regional initiatives on Forest Honey in Asia	
14:45– 15:10	Forests and <i>A. cerana</i> beekeeping: Research and development insights from Vietnam	Dr. Chinh
15:10 – 15:30	Supporting small scale farmers in beekeeping: Lessons from India	Robert Leo
15:30 – 16:50	Establishing a forest honey network: Insights from the Forest Honey Network of Indonesia	Hermanto
15:50 - 16:10	Regional Forest Honey Initiatives: Madhu Duniya and the Forest Harvest Collective Mark (FHCM)	Crissy Guerrero
16:10 – 16:30	Discussion and identification of key issues to bring forward	Sunnti Douangtavanh Michael Victor
16:30 – 16:40	Wrap-up summary	Chair
	Honey Food and Drinks	

Day 3 Wednesday May 23

Time	Agenda Item	Responsible
8.30 – 8.45	Review of Day 1	Ms. Khamnouy Chanthalasy
	Session 3: NTFP Program and Policy Support and Private Sector initiatives Laos	
8.45 – 9.10	Presentation support policies on forest honey	Dr. Oupakhone ALounsavath, DoF
9.10 – 9.30	Experiences in developing participatory Guarantee Systems	Dr. Thavisit, DDG, DoA
9:30 – 9.45	Potential for Lao Honey as an ODOP Product	Madme Valy, LNCCI
9.45 – 10.00	Discussion	
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee Break	
10.15 – 11.30	Working group session 1 1) Developing a National Network 2) Standards and Quality 3) Marketing, Branding, Labeling	Introduction by Chinda

	4) Value Addition 5) Youth in honey production 6) Policy related support	
11.30 – 11.45	<i>Explanation of field trips and break into groups</i>	
	<i>Lunch</i>	
12:30-16:00	Field trips to: 1) Ban Laithong 2) Ban Phousy 3) Ban Phanxay 4) Ban Phon	All participants
16:00 16:30	Return and reflect on trips	

Day 4: Thursday May 24

Time	Agenda Item	Responsible
8:30 – 9:15	Report back on Field trips	Noy/Chinda
9.15 – 11.00	Working groups on key issues 1) Developing a National Network 2) Standards and Quality 3) Marketing, Branding, Labeling 4) Value Addition 5) Youth in honey production 6) Policy related support	
11.00 – 11.45	Report back	
11.30 – 12.00	Closing Ceremony Vice Governor, Xiengkhouang Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	