



# I-INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ANIMAL SCIENCE IN SEMI-ARID REGIONS

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Apiculture and Meliponiculture

## Situational diagnosis of the apiculture production chain in the sertão of Alagoas

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Beekeeping plays a fundamental role in the national productive sector, contributing not only to Brazil's economic growth but also playing a significant social role. Besides generating employment and income, this activity promotes the formation of collective spaces, such as cooperatives and associations. However, beekeeping faces several challenges that limit its efficient development, such as a lack of professionalization, difficulty accessing technologies, and insufficient technical assistance. This work aimed to present a situational diagnosis of the apiculture production chain in the sertão of Alagoas. The method used consists of descriptive and quantitative characteristics. The actual work was developed through interviews conducted by professionals from the company Efetiva Consultoria e Projetos LTDA over twelve months. A previously prepared questionnaire regarding apicultural production in the Alagoas sertão was applied. The interviews, as well as the consultancy, were conducted in 40 properties located in four municipalities in the Sertão of Alagoas through the “Polinizing the sertão Project.” Questions addressed whether producers identify their hives, adopt hive standardization, use safe distances for apiaries, the frequency of apicultural management, and what they analyze in the hives in the field. This generated percentage results using Excel (2010) based on the responses from the interviewed producers. The application of the questionnaire revealed that 76.32% of beekeepers identify their hives through numbering, and about 23.68% do not use hive identification. Regarding hive standardization, 60.53% use this technique, meeting the entire Langstroth standard with mobile frames, bee space, uniformity, removable tops and bottoms, and vertical manipulation, while only 39.47% do not use hive standardization. When asked about the safe distance of apiaries, it was noted that 84.21% are concerned about safety, avoiding apicultural exploitation near roads, residences, and other animals, as well as adopting access and using indication signs, and only 15.79% do not show this concern. When questioned about the frequency of apicultural management, it was observed that 57.89% perform bi-weekly management of hives, not necessarily going to the field and handling the hives, but also conducting monitoring; 34.21% perform monthly management, and 7.90% perform weekly management. When asked what producers analyze in the hives in the field, it is observed that 100% of beekeepers check the condition of brood, food, and honey, or effective revision, while the other option asked was if they only evaluate honey supers. Beekeepers in the Alagoas Sertão demonstrate concern for the work adopted in apicultural exploitation. They identify and standardize the hives, pay attention to the safety of the apiaries, frequently perform management activities, and verify the health and productivity conditions of the hives, which is fundamental for business management.

**Keywords:** producers, hives, apiary, management.