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Moving Honey Bee Hives

Adopting a 'mobile program' in honey production in Nam Dinh, Vietnam.

Background

Xuan Thuy National Park's (XTNP) mangrove forests occupy a total area of over 3,500 hectares around Giao An, Giao Thien, Hong Son and Hoanh Thuan communes. During flowering season, these mangroves could provide huge potential for honey production. However, these areas were underutilized by local honey bee groups in the past. More often, the mangroves were utilized for firewood and other commercial purposes.

Mobile Program for Honey Production

In 2008, the honey group initiated in Nam Dinh a "mobile program" to transfer bee cages to mangrove forests during summer time. The group was able to secure support from Giao An People's Committee (PC) and Xuan Thuy National Park management board, through the backstopping support of CORIN-Asia. It was found out that after initial trials, bees could produce honey three times higher if kept in the mangroves compared to those kept inland (in the gardens, backyards, etc.). Honey producers noted that spring time (March to May) is the best season for bees and honey yield while winter (December to February) leads to low yields. These encouraged the group to plan ahead to transfer all the bees hives to the mangroves during summer.

The "mobile program" was successful not only because of the initiative and enthusiasm of all the members of the group. The Giao An People's Commune and XTNP officers conducted meetings with the group to create common understanding of how members can contribute to mangrove conservation life in the National Park. This does not only improve their production but also contribute to a more balanced environment and sustainable management of resources around the area.

Farmers check the condition of bee cages on a regular basis. Organizing farmers into a group for the 'mobile program' have strengthened their capacity to improve their livelihood in Nam Dinh.

The group's 'mobile program' has led to increased honey production by bringing the bee cages to the flowering mangrove areas.

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