



Fayoum University

**ECONOMICS OF PRODUCTION AND
MARKETING OF HONEY IN FAYOUM
GOVERNORATE**

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ABSTRACT

Beekeeping is considered one of the most important agricultural and economical activities, it provides a good source of income as well as added value of the agricultural production, and provides employment opportunities in the agricultural sector.

The present study is aimed to investigate economic production and marketing of honey through studying honey production efficiency and the possibility to improve honeybee products as well as finding solutions to honey producers' problems in Fayoum Governorate.

The present study indicated that honey industry in Egypt is completely depends on modern hives, that the number of native hives was decreased in Fayoum Governorate and all over Egypt by 0.1 and 6.35 thousand hives during the period form (1993-2006). The number of modern hives all over Egypt was increased and reached 26.32 thousand hives, while it was decreased in Fayoum Governorate by 0.6 thousand hives.

The average production of honey per hive in Egypt and Fayoum were 6.3 k.g./ hive and 7.66 k.g./hive respectively. The wax production in Fayoum Governorate was increased by 0.49 tones. It is clear that honey and wax production decreasing were due to hives low production during the study period. The total

and individual consumption of honey in Egypt were decreased by 0.145 thousand tones and 4.25 gram/year respectively during the period (1996-2006), while self-sufficiency during the same period was increased by 1.12%. Net foreign trade was increased by 81.51 thousand dollar/year during the period (1992-2005).

The field results revealed that the depreciation of swarms, wooden hives and feeders were increased comparing to the average total fixed costs while the depreciation of extractors, masks and smokers were decreased comparing to the average total fixed costs. The average fixed and variable costs represents 19.9% and 80.1% form the average total costs. Thorough the production efficiency indicators, it is clear that net revenue of one kg of honey was 5.89 LE. The average costs to produce one kg. of honey reached about 9.37, 8.15, 6.88, 8.06 LE. in the first, second, third classes, and total sample respectively, this indicated that the third production class was the best competence one of the other studied classes.

The standard determination of the production functions which using the stepwise regression to measure the most important factors affecting honey production in Fayoum Governorate were number of experience years, work hours, sugar quantity, and hive transport. The study results showed with respect to costs functions, that 91%, 89%, 92% of existent

changes in gross production costs are due to production changes in the first class, second class and third class respectively.

It revealed that the marketing margin from producer to consumer for one kg. of honey about 5.7, 4.9, 3.3 LE. from citrus, clover, and cotton seasons respectively. Marketing efficiency from producer to consumer were 58.6%, 62.2%, 71% for seasons of citrus, clover, and cotton respectively. It is clear from the estimating of honey marketing rates and marketing efficiency in Fayoum Governorate that most marketing margin gained by small merchant.

The present study showed that the possibility of increasing hive number in Egypt by 27.63% (395.2 thousand hives) and 45.17% (40.2 thousand hives) in Fayoum Governorate during the period (2002-2006).

The main problems facing beekeepers in Fayoum are high density of bees in the same area, pests and diseases infection, low prices of production, honey adulteration, difficulty to obtain pure queen races and insufficient markets.