

The Upper East Region of Ghana has significant agricultural potential, which remains largely untapped due to smallholder farming structures, a lack of financial investment opportunities, and insufficient connections to distribution markets. Many young people try to migrate from here to larger cities in search of work. Most people involved in agriculture work in subsistence structures or small-scale operations, earning very low incomes. Many families lack the funds to send their children to school. In some cases, school attendance is temporary, depending on the fluctuating income of the parents.

In the community of Kongo, located thirty minutes from the city of Bolgatanga, there are few opportunities for income-generating activities. Of the 1,500 people living in the community, the majority are engaged in agriculture. Most agriculture is conducted in subsistence structures. The small quantity of crops produced through agriculture, such as sisal, maize, shea nuts, and other crops, are sold in small quantities once a week at the weekly market. The village's structure consists of half residential houses and the other half backyard gardens and small fields. Many women do not have income-generating activities and are dependent on the meager earnings of their husbands from the unprofitable agriculture. The children in the community attend school only if the economic situation of their parents allows them to afford the costs. Thus, school attendance for some children in the community depends on their parents' income and, in many cases, is temporary. Interest in income-generating activities is therefore high.



Based on this situation, we, together with the Amediewu Honey Foundation and with financial support from the Schmitz Foundation, have taken the initiative to organize a beekeeping training for the community. In the training program, thirty participants learned beekeeping in both practice and theory. The training includes a practical and a theoretical part. The practical and theoretical components of the training are based on the previous pilot project by the Amediewu Honey Foundation and have been tried and tested. The practical part includes wearing protective clothing, visiting an active beehive, handling the bee colony in practice, producing fused beeswax to treat the hives to attract the bees, observing and managing the hive, as well as harvesting the honeycombs and extracting the honey.



The theoretical part covers the anatomy and organization of a bee colony, beekeeping equipment and its use, beekeeping as a profitable income activity, site selection, colony management, beeswax production, strategies for attracting a bee colony, disease management, and honey harvesting. Monitoring the health of the bees is part of beekeeping and thus part of the training. There is a catalog of preventive and direct measures to be implemented in the event of infestation. Additionally, it is important to ensure that there is a water source within the bees' flight radius. The yield of pollen and nectar can also be influenced by the choice of location. It is advantageous to place the hives near mango, cashew, or teak plantations, but natural sites with harvestable resources for bees are also suitable locations. Furthermore, the theoretical part includes documentation on the settlement of the bees in the provided hives as well as documentation of the honey harvest and yield quantities.