

Career in Apiculture

What is Apiculture?

Apiculture or Beekeeping is the care and management of honey bees for the production of honey and wax on a commercial scale. The bees are kept and bred in apiaries set up in a monitored environment. The agro-based activity is undertaken mostly in the rural areas to meet the food needs as well as the need for raw material for the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industry. The role of honey bees is central to the process of pollination of crops which is significant for the good yield. Honey Bees have a vital role in sustaining plants' bio-diversity which is vital to support environmental stability.

Governments support and sponsor programs on awareness about the benefits of beekeeping. Providing employment to many and contributing to the environment besides helping meet the global nutrition requirements, beekeeping has emerged as a great career option.

Role and Responsibilities of a Beekeeper

Beekeepers are professionally trained to carry on the tasks related to Apiculture. The job description of a may slightly vary depending on the production scale. Some of the core responsibilities of a beekeeper are listed below:

- Monitor and maintain the hygiene of the beehives.
- Record observations and devise strategies for effective solutions.
- Relocating beehives to enhance pollination of the crops.
- Inspect beehives for parasites or diseases and do repairs when needed.
- Facilitate a conducive environment for breeding and growth of bees.
- Harvesting of honey without harming bees.
- Managing marketing, sales and packaging of honey and by-products.
- Ensuring high quality and hygiene of the products.

Courses in Apiculture

To bring diversity in courses and promote sustainable development of the planet, universities are stressing on the inclusion of agriculture-related courses and modern farming practices. Many specialized universities have been established to promote

research and development in the field. Courses like BSc Agriculture and MBA Agriculture are becoming popular.

Here are a few courses in apiculture that you can consider taking up:

Course	University	Location	Duration
Graduate Certificate in Commercial Beekeeping	Niagara College	Canada	3 Years
Certificate in Apiculture	Southern Institute of Technology	New Zealand	36 Weeks
Graduate Certificate in Beekeeping	University of Maryland	USA	12 Months

Career Prospects

For those who wish to start their own business, a career in Apiculture can be good to start with a minimal capital of 1-2 lakh. If you have expertise in beekeeping, the job is likely to be rewarding and fulfilling. The diversity in flora and fauna in India increases the opportunities for the development of the beekeeping industry.

It is estimated that more than 150 million bee colonies are needed for the pollination of crops in India which is likely to generate employment for 215 lakh people and highly trained professionals are needed to oversee them.

BONUS [Facts about Apiculture]

- Apiculture encourages environmental awareness.
- The revenue generated from 100 bee colonies is around Rs 3 Lakh per annum.
- It improves crop production which boosts revenue generation in farming.
- Beekeeping plays a vital role in the development of small scale industry and rural economy.
- It promotes tourism in the region and thus contributes to the economy.

Apiculture contributes to the employment generation and promotes self-employment, which has led to a number of educated youths pursuing it as a career option. Giving the

flexibility to develop a business model using beekeeping as a part of integrated farming or choosing it as a part-time, beekeeping as a profession has many takers. If you are planning to give your career a boost by gaining some extra skills in the relevant field