

REPORT ON THE 8TH DAY OF THE GREEN SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (GSDP) CERTIFICATE COURSE ON "APICULTURIST (WILD BEE) – NTFP" FOR ST CANDIDATES

Conducted by: EIACP Hub Manipur, Department of Environment & Climate Change,
Government of Manipur

Day: 08

Date: 24 September 2026

Mode: Site Visit, Hands-on Practical Training and Demonstration

Resource Persons:

- 1. Ms Arambam Suchitra Devi**, Bee Professional, AICRP – HB &P
- 2. Mr. Lourembam Robindro**, Apiarist, AICRP – HB & P

Introduction

As part of the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP), under the Certificate Course on "Apiculturist (Wild Bee) – NTFP", a field visit involving hands-on practical training and demonstrations in beekeeping was organised for the trainees. The visit aimed at providing practical exposure to beekeeping practices adopted by experienced farmers and strengthening the trainees' understanding of bee colony management, natural and artificial beehives, honey and beeswax production, queen bee identification, colony transfer, hygienic beekeeping practices, and pest and predator management.

The visit also provided an opportunity for the trainees to understand the interrelationship between apiculture, agriculture and environmental conservation.

The field visit was led by Ms. Arambam Suchitra Devi, Bee Professional, with the support of Mr. Lourembam Robindro, Apiarist, AICRP–HB & P, and the staff of EIACP Hub Manipur, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Manipur.

A total of 20 trainees participated in the field-based practical training and demonstrations. The trainees, resource persons and supporting staff assembled at the College of Agriculture, Iroisemba, CAU, Imphal, at approximately 9:45 a.m. Following attendance and necessary arrangements, the field visit commenced at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Visit to Matai Mamang Leikai, Luwangsangbam, Imphal West

The first field visit was conducted at Matai Mamang Leikai, Luwangsangbam, Imphal West, where the trainees visited the apiary of a experienced beekeeper and received hands-on practical exposure to the inspection and management of bee colonies and hives. During the visit, the trainees closely observed the structure and organisation of bee colonies, the roles of worker and queen bees, identification of the queen bee, formation and development of honeycombs and the presence of honey, pollen and beeswax within the comb.

The practical demonstration further enabled the trainees to understand colony establishment and development, the role of worker bees in collecting nectar and pollen and maintaining the colony, as well as the process of honey production and storage in the comb. The trainees were also introduced to basic methods of honey extraction and the differences between traditional and modern extraction techniques. Overall, the field visit provided valuable practical knowledge on the various aspects of apiculture, from colony establishment and comb construction to honey production, collection and extraction.

Field Visit to the Hills of Asei Loklen, Luwangsangbam

The next practical activity was conducted in the hills of Asei Loklen, Luwangsangbam, and the surrounding hillside areas. The trainees were taken into the natural habitat of bees to observe and search for naturally established bee colonies and combs. This activity provided direct exposure to the behaviour and natural habitat of bees. Under the guidance of the resource persons and experienced farmers, the trainees learned practical techniques for:

- Searching for naturally occurring bee colonies.
- Identifying natural bee combs and colonies.
- Observing worker bees and locating the queen bee.
- Understanding the natural behaviour and habitat of bees.
- Carefully handling natural colonies without causing unnecessary disturbance.
- Identifying the queen bee and understanding her role in colony establishment.
- Learning techniques for transferring a naturally established bee colony into an artificial hive.
- Safe handling and transportation of bee colonies from the natural site to the farmer's apiary.

The activity demonstrated the importance of careful handling and proper transfer techniques for maintaining the health and stability of a bee colony.

Visit to Phayeng

The third major field visit was conducted at Phayeng, where the trainees received practical exposure to bee colony protection, hygienic beekeeping practices, and the interrelationship between apiculture and agriculture. The trainees learned to identify various insects and predators that pose threats to honeybee colonies, with particular emphasis on hornet attacks, which farmers identified as a major challenge in beekeeping. The field demonstration included observation and collection of different insects for identification and further laboratory study, understanding their effects on bee colonies and learning practical methods for protecting beehives from harmful insects and predators.

The trainees were also familiarised with the importance of maintaining hygienic conditions around the apiary, conducting regular inspections and monitoring of colonies and maintaining healthy and strong bee populations. The visit further highlighted the significance of apiculture in supporting agriculture, horticulture and gardening. The farmers explained the importance of honeybees in pollination and their contribution to agricultural and horticultural production. The

trainees were able to understand that beekeeping provides not only honey and beeswax but also valuable pollination services that support farming, gardening and biodiversity. Local farmers shared their field-level experiences and long-term practical knowledge of managing hornet attacks and protecting bee colonies, thereby providing the trainees with valuable insights into effective and sustainable beekeeping practices.

Interaction with Successful Farmers

An important component of the field visit was the interaction with experienced beekeepers regarding the benefits and challenges of beekeeping. The farmers shared their practical experiences in maintaining healthy bee colonies, conducting regular hive inspections, preventing contamination and protecting colonies from predators, particularly hornets, which were identified as a major challenge.

The interaction enhanced the trainees' practical knowledge by connecting classroom learning with field-level experience. It also highlighted the importance of honeybees in pollination, agricultural productivity, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood generation.

Conclusion

The eighth day of the GSDP Certificate Course on "Apiculturist (Wild Bee) – NTFP", conducted by EIACP Hub Manipur, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Manipur, provided the trainees with valuable practical exposure to beekeeping activities through field visits to Matai Mamang Leikai, the Asei Loklen hills of Luwangsangbam, and Phayeng.

Under the guidance of the resource persons and experienced farmers, the trainees gained practical knowledge of bee colony management, queen bee identification, natural colony transfer, honey production and extraction, hygienic beekeeping practices, and pest and predator management.

The field visits also highlighted the importance of honeybees in pollination, agricultural productivity, biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability and livelihood generation.

The practical knowledge and experience gained during the visits are expected to enhance the trainees' technical skills and encourage them to adopt improved and sustainable beekeeping practices.

Photographic Glimpses of the Eighth Day of the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)





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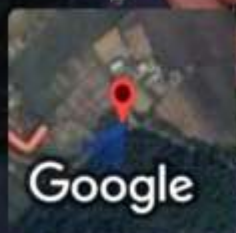






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