

BEEKEEPING IN MACEDONIA

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management



INTRODUCTION

The natural conditions in Macedonia are excellent for the development of beekeeping sector. Our country is distinguished with good climate, rich and diverse flora, hilly-mountain character of the land and ecologically clean regions. The honey and bee products in Macedonia are with high quality, but the quantities that are produced are not enough to satisfy the domestic market. Although we have this tradition for centuries , beekeeping in Macedonia has yet to be developed, we must to make legal provisions, to make controls regularly and improve the quality of honey and bee products, to organize educational programs for beekeepers, to stimulate the export especially towards the developed countries etc.

LEGAL FRAMES

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia in 29 November 2004 has adopted „The Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development for the period 2007-2013 “ and part of the objectives of this program were achievements in the sphere of quality and safety of agricultural products. Because of this, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, prepared a draft law for Quality of Agricultural Products, which will regulate the market of honey and bee products. The mode of regulation is made according to the European regulations. The Law has entered parliamentary procedure and is in its final phase and most probably in November 2010 will be in force.

With these law, and by-laws acts, shell be regulated:

- ***The standards for the quality of the honey and bee products***



- ***The packaging and the labeling of the honey and bee products***



- ***Market information system***



Recording and archiving



The control of the standards for quality of honey and bee products



Control

According to the Law of Quality of agricultural products, the control of the quality of the honey and bee products is made by:

- Department of Veterinary within MAFWM
- Analyses and extra analyses of the taken samples for quality will be made in authorized laboratories

The method of taking samples and the method of analyzing will be provided by Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. It is important to note that in Macedonia there is a laboratory within the Veterinary faculty, which is currently authorized and performs analyses of the quality of the honey and bee products, as well as the presence of residues in them.

Statistics

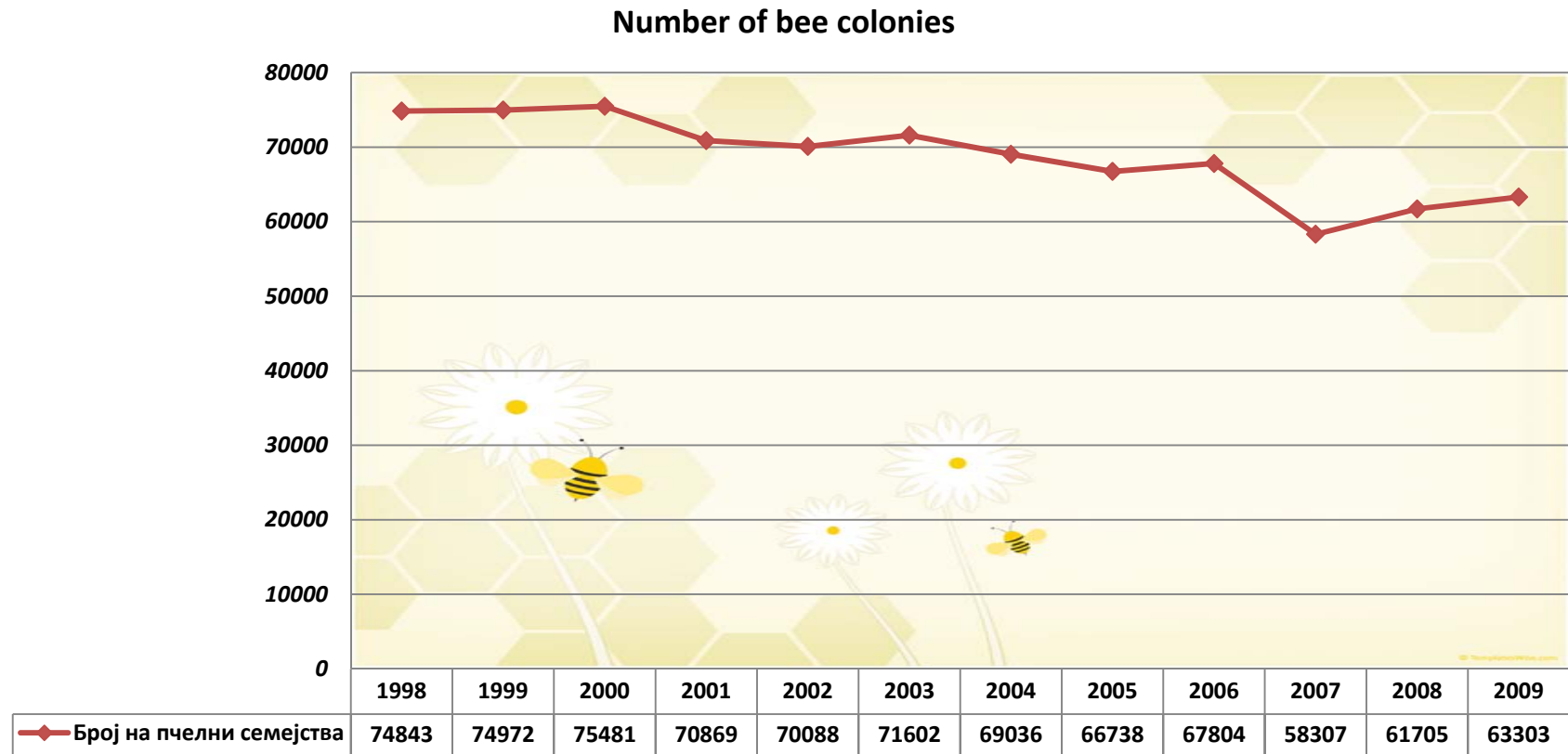
In Macedonia there are around **10.000 beekeepers**, are registered over 30 associations. Representatives of 14 of these associations, this year, established an Union of Beekeepers Associations in Macedonia.

As a producers of honey and bee products in Macedonia can take part individual producers and business companies. But the number of bee families in business companies are continuously decreasing, while those at individual producers are increasing.

In table 1 in the next slide, you can see the annual production of honey in the last 12 years, the annual production of honey by colony, as well as the total number of bee colonies in Macedonia.

Year	Number of bee colonies	Production kg/colony	Total production in tons
1998	74843	15	1122,65
1999	74972	21	1574,41
2000	75481	14	1056,73
2001	70869	13	921,3
2002	70088	12	841,06
2003	71602	14	1002,43
2004	69036	13	897,47
2005	66738	15	1001,07
2006	67804	13	881,45
2007	58307	12	699,68
2008	61705	13	775,1
2009	63303	13	803,2
Average	69671	14	1001

Tab 1 . Average annual production of honey and annual production of honey by bee colony



On these chart you can see that the number of bee colonies was decreasing until 2008 since when started to increase with slow rate

Besides honey, beekeepers in Macedonia are producing ***beeswax, royal jelly , propolis and pollen***, while bee poison is not produced.

<i>Product</i>	<i>Annual production (kg)</i>
Beeswax	162306
Royal Jelly	121,3
Propolis	3315
Pollen	4998

Tab2. Annual production of bee products in Macedonia

Price of honey and honey products

Product	Average price in EUR by kg
<i>Honey</i>	<i>3,1</i>
<i>Beeswax</i>	<i>4,7</i>
<i>Pollen</i>	<i>23,5</i>
<i>Propolis</i>	<i>29,3</i>
<i>Royal Jelly</i>	<i>3008</i>

Tab. 3 Prices

Export

According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia, the annual consumption of honey per household is 2.7 kg, indicating that the required annual amount of honey to satisfy the domestic market is 1530 tons. With this production which currently has our country meets only 50% of the domestic market, which makes Macedonia to import honey from other countries.

Beside these facts, Macedonian honey is exported to other countries (about 11%), but not in the EU member states due to lack of appropriate legal frameworks.

Soon, with the adoption of the Law for Quality of Agricultural products, will enable better quality and traceability of honey and bee products, wherewith these products can be sold in the markets of the EU countries. With this , beekeeping in Macedonia is expected to develop more and to become a significant source of income of many households in the country.

Support

Each year the Government of the Republic of Macedonia stimulates the production of honey and bee products. For 2010 are provided the following measures in the beekeeping sector:

- Financial support by registered bee colony
(8.1 EUR per one bee colony)**
- Financial support for buying queen bees
(5.7 EUR per one queen bee)**
- Financial support for raising beekeeping important plants on new areas
(48.7 EUR per hectare)**
- Financial support for production of organic honey
(2.5 EUR per bee colony)**