



Union Citizen European Professionals Experts (Onlus)



Unione Cittadini Esperti Professionisti Europei

## BEE KEEPING AFGHANISTAN

U.C.E.P.E. ONLUS is an Italian NGO based in Cuneo (Piemonte) that deals with the presentation and promotion of scientific and cultural research for many institutions in Europe. Lately, the group has paid attention to the delicate issue relevant to the memory of bees, proposing research made by experienced technicians and experts in beekeeping. For more information: [www.ucepe.eu](http://www.ucepe.eu)

Starting with this project as part of a cultural research, U.C.E.P.E. ONLUS wants to participate in order to promote the civic engagement for the socio-economic reconstruction of Afghanistan's provinces in terms of the "Peace Keeping" missions. In recent years several initiatives have been instigated by the economic recovery of the Afghan State, which has recorded good results especially in the business and in the agriculture field. For example, the success of the cultivation of saffron as an alternative to planting opium production has shown that the objectives of international cooperation, along with to a close collaboration with local institutions, are able to provide excellent results.

Our project aims at combining the technical knowledge and know-out of the Italian beekeepers with the sustainable involvement of natural and human resources of the Province of Afghanistan. The commitment of the experts U.C.E.P.E. ONLUS has recently been affected in the search for natural formulations to combat varroa, the terrible mite that is exterminating bees across Europe and worldwide. Besides this, the research produced by the Italian beekeepers has given clear expectations, above all as regards the fight to other diseases. As you can see in the documents attached, the adoption of a natural formula based on the initial use of lemon juice ensures the protection of the bee and the increased production of honey.

Therefore we believe that Afghanistan is now in need more than ever of an economic recovery and of job creation, focusing on the enhancement of numerous

natural and human resources that the country offers. To realize this, we propose in our program which consists of three main goals:

- A) The implementation of a social, occupational and economic process and employment that is based on the activity of beekeeping in Afghanistan. Our purpose is to give life to a concrete and effective collaboration between the Italian and European bee experts and the Afghan beekeepers, to enable them to implement the integration of the techniques of breeding and conservation of bees studied and tested in recent years. Technical innovations can be observed in many fields. For example the construction of hives with biological material which is naturally able to retain moisture and protect the hive from numerous parasites. Then there is the treatment and protection of queen bees to get the teaching techniques of defense against varroa and against the many diseases that threaten the bee. This work will form part of the Peace keeping missions conducted in the eastern part of the country, with particular reference to the provinces Badakhstan, Baghdis, Konar, Laghman and Nurestan. The project is valid for all areas of Afghanistan. The exploitation of local natural resources, linked to the revival of underprivileged groups such as women's, allow Afghanistan and their respective provinces to assert its presence in the international field with the image of a partner specializing in the production and in the processing of honey.
  
- B) One of the main points in the program of the International Cooperation and of the Peace-keeping missions, included in our project, is the fight against terrorism. As can be seen in the document relating to the case of success of the cultivation of saffron, we believe that the encouragement and development of beekeeping will bring many benefits to the Afghan people, especially in the interest of the population groups most disadvantaged and subject to the cooptation of the Taliban militia, like women and youth. In order to do this, it is necessary to build real villages assigned to the business of beekeeping which can stimulate aspects of professional and social aggregation in the Asian Country. Beekeeping is a type of farming suitable to all age groups and gender: young people, women and elderly. The development of this project will allow many young people who aren't able to provide for their own financial self-

sustaining survival to have an alternative to the "forced" adhesion in the ranks of the Taliban.

In this regard, a symbol case is the Khyber operation, conducted from August 22 to September 7, 2007 in Paktya Province, an area completely mountainous border with Pakistan, which bore the sad record in the number of suicide bombings. In one of the villages of the province, the "anthropologist Tracy (code name) has identified an unusually high concentration of widows. Their lack of income created an inevitable economic pressure on their sons, who, in order to provide sustenance for their families, were often incited to join the Taliban in exchange for substantial reward money. Following the advice of Tracy, U.S. officials have therefore developed a program of training and employment for widows. This initiative has saved many young Afghans from a fate tied to secure involvement in the attacks organized by the Taliban organizations in the area. The results are precisely ascertainable with the drastic reduction of suicide bombings.

- C) Another key point for the development of our research relates to the fight against the cultivation and opium trade. We believe the destruction of fields of opium poppy is wrong and disrespectful, which unfortunately is the only option for self-financial support for Afghan farmers and landowners. Instead, our goal is to work together hand in hand and virtuously with farmers and local governments, seeking to enhance the natural resource most present in Afghanistan, the opium poppy, in the most profitable and beneficial way to the local economy, taking advantage from the positive aspects that derive from this plant. As you know, the bee during its process of pollination captures the nectar from the variety of plants present in a given context. We know that honey opium, instead of drugs derived from the same plant, retains many healthy properties, like all types of honey. Our intention is precisely to discover and study the beneficial properties that honey in Afghanistan can have, to better understand the cataloging and to promote their authenticity. The honeydew may contains many unique features, which would allow Afghanistan to revamp the image of their country with the brand of a salutary, special and original product. Honey is composed of sugars like glucose and fructose and minerals like magnesium, potassium, calcium,

sodium chlorine, sulphur, iron and phosphate. It contains vitamins B1, B2, C, B6, B5 and B3 all of which change according to the qualities of the nectar and pollen. Besides the above, copper, iodine, and zinc exist in it in small quantities. Several kinds of hormones are also present in it. Approximately one half of the human diet is derived directly or indirectly from crops pollinated by bees. Today honeybees are an essential part of a healthy agriculture economy. In order to fight allergies, honey can be beneficial. Eating honey of a local area, it may help prevent your seasonal allergies. Bees use the pollen from local plants and eventually it ends up in honey. Honey is a natural antiseptic. Medical journals cite more than 600 cases in which honey was employed to treat wounds. By applying honey to your wounds, you prevent infections. Honey contains antimicrobial agents, which prevents infections by killing the bacteria in and around your wounds. When using honey it may help to heat it up before putting it on your wound (caution test the heat before you place it on the wound). Many types of bacteria can't survive in honey, so wounds heal, swelling eases, and tissue can grow back. As you can see in the follow table.

<b>Gr. 100 di:</b>	<b>* mg. Calcio</b>	<b>* mg. Fosforo</b>	<b>* Mg. B2</b>	<b>* mg. PP</b>	<b>* mg. C</b>	<b>VITAMINE</b>		
<b>Honey</b>	<b>* 0,5</b>	<b>* 6</b>	<b>* 00,4</b>	<b>* 0,3</b>	<b>* 1</b>			
<b>Sugar</b>	<b>* 0</b>	<b>* 0</b>	<b>* 0</b>	<b>* 0</b>	<b>* 0</b>			

#### **COMPOSITION OF HONEY**

<b>1) Fructose</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>2) Glucose</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>3) Maltose</b>	<b>7,5%</b>
<b>4) Sucrose</b>	<b>1,5%</b>
<b>5) Minerals</b>	<b>0,2%</b>
<b>6) Others (pollen, wax, proteins)</b>	<b>3,8%</b>
<b>7) Water</b>	<b>18%</b>

To start our project we need to visit one of the Afghan Province with which the Ministry and the Embassy have relations to monitor and better understand the

reality of the territory, to forge partnerships with local beekeepers, and to discuss the best strategies adoptable for the integration of knowledge and know-out of our local beekeepers in the process of breeding. Our priority is to locate some contacts in the area to begin and continue to manage our project. The results will be monitored and evaluated with periodic examinations and investigations conducted by our experts. In order to fully respect the tasks of international cooperation.

Therefore, investment costs are limited to the initial travel expenses for five people: Aldo Regolo and Giacomo Fidelibus (as the creators and promoters of the project), a team of beekeepers and bee experts (consisting of three persons) who will bring all materials and equipment necessary to perform the measurements on site.

Confident in obtaining good results, we are pleased and honored to work for the socioeconomic development of a wonderful country like Afghanistan and to contribute to a qualitative improvement of an extraordinary Nation, that of the Afghan people.

Yours sincerely,

*ALDO REGOLO*

President of U.C.E.P.E.



*GIACOMO FIDELIBUS*

Cultural Researcher



U.C.E.P.E. Onlus sede legale Via Castelletto Stura, 316 – 12100 Cuneo Italy

In Belgium

U.C.E.P.E. Onlus C/o ECAS 77 Avenue de la Toisson d'or B-1060 Brussel

Tel.+39-3927368947

[info@ucepe.eu](mailto:info@ucepe.eu)

C.F. 96079480040