



20. Winter Management of Honey bees

Type: Improved/New
 Year of development: 2008-2009
 Patent: NA

Name of Inventor
 Dr Muneer Ahmad & Dr .Sheikh Bilal.

Description of Technology

- Winter Packing for *Apis mellifera* is a necessary management practice to overcome in harsh winter months. There is considerable damage to bee which occurs during whole season especially in winter. Chill is one of the threats to apiculture industry in this region which affects the health and strength of the managed bees.
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- Various packing materials combinations were evaluated as winter packings
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Packing materials used
Paper+ Rice straw + Gunny Bags
Paper+ Thermocool + Rice straw
Gunny bags+ Rice straw+Thermocool
Paper+ Gunny Bags
Thermocool + Dry Leaves + Gunny Bags



Impact

All packing used show good results as for survival rate is concerned
 No absconding, disease incidence and robbing were recorded in the colonies
 Lead to less consumption of honey
 Reduced winter mortality
 Early spring brood rearing
 Can bear-12 °C temperature

Commercial applicability

The technique can be successfully adopted across Kashmir by all bee keepers for tiding over the deleterious effects of winter chill.