EXERCISE 4  DIAGNOSIS OF BEE DISEASES

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4.0 INTRODUCTION

For the successful beekeeping, timely diagnosis of the bee diseases and their management are the essential activities. A detailed description of various diseases and their symptoms are given in the course 2. This exercise will enlighten you about the method of diagnosis of different diseases affecting the bees. Before undertaking this exercise, you should go through the theory blocks referred above. The diseases should be identified on the basis of its symptoms.

In this exercise, you will be given an account about the method to examine the symptoms of bee disease based on the descriptions given in the theory blocks.

Objectives

After undertaking this exercise, you will in a position to:

- identify the disease of the bees; and
- evolve or select and implement an appropriate strategy to manage the bee disease.

4.1 PROCEDURE

Before explaining the procedure, let us look into the principle of this exercise.

Principle

Identification of a disease is an essential component of bee disease management. As you have learnt in theory, many diseases appear almost similar but there are few differences in their symptoms. These differences have to be clearly understood in order to select or evolve a technique to manage them.

Requirements

While undertaking this exercise, you may need the following items:

1. Beekeeping site/apiary,
2. Magnifying glass,
3. Specks,  
4. Notebook and pen/pencil, and  
5. Camera.

Steps

First of all, you have to read the detailed descriptions of damage symptoms of various bee diseases, so that the minute details of symptoms of different diseases are known to you.

1. Visit the apiary and interact with the beekeeper for information about various diseases affecting his/her bees.

2. Note down all kinds of information pertaining to the management of bee diseases being done at the apiary.

3. Record the method of using a pesticide or other materials for managing the bee enemy.

4.2 OBSERVATIONS AND RESULT

Record all kinds of observations on the disease of bee occurred at the apiary. Accordingly, you will be in a position to adopt suitable method to control the bee diseases.

4.3 PRECAUTIONS

Please follow the following suggestions to complete this exercise successfully:

- Do not disturb the bees in their normal operation while observing the action of enemies.
- Use protective measures while being near the apiary.