



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Control measures relating to honey-bees

Introduction

In South Africa, there are two different colonies currently kept for various reasons, namely the African honey-bees (with their natural habitat in the northern and central parts of the country which includes Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Gauteng, Kwazulu Natal, Free State and some parts of the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape province) and the Cape honey-bees (with their natural habitat in the southern part of the country which, include the Western Cape and some parts of the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape province).

The importance of bees

The honey-bee plays a vital role in the pollination of agricultural crops and bees are also important for honey production.

Control measures

The Control Measures relating to honey-bees R.858 of 15 November 2013 of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983) provide for national control measures of honey-bee diseases and management in South Africa. The control measures state that “no person may remove honey-bees, remove or keep cape bees and remove any Capensis-infected colony, without the prior written approval of executive officer”. The Capensis-infected colony may only be removed if it is to be destroyed; or kept in isolation from other honey-bee colonies at a predetermined site.

Honey-bees control measures also provides for: registration of beekeepers with the DAFF, making of beehives, inspection of every colony in beehives by beekeepers, record keeping by beekeepers, inspection of every colony in beehives by beekeepers, prohibition of removal of Capensis-infected colonies, destruction of infected honey-bee colonies and prohibition of movement of infected honey-bee colonies.

Colony collapse of honey-bees may have a negative impact on food or crop production, food security, export markets, as well as economic growth. It is important to conserve and protect

its valuable bees (African and Cape bees) from harmful foreign diseases, and also to prevent further spread of diseases from infected areas to non-infected areas.

For more information please contact:

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