



# Apimondia

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

## QUEEN REARING AND SELECTION PRACTICES AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE GENETIC DIVERSITY AND FITNESS OF HONEY BEE COLONIES

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### APIMONDIA WORKING GROUP ON HONEY BEE DIVERSITY AND FITNESS (AWG 7)

The Apimondia working group on honey bee diversity and fitness (AWG 7) was created on October 25, 2010 as a Scientific Working Group of Apimondia.

#### THE AIM

The aim of this AWG is to collect information on honey bee queen rearing practices, and examine their impact on the genetic variability and general health of honey bee colonies. The AWG consists of 23 members from 16 different countries. The world wide survey being conducted by this AWG is focused on gathering information on how selection methods, instrumental insemination, disease management procedures, introduction of exotic honey bee lines, queen replacement strategies, and loss of local colony populations due to introduced parasites and pathogens, affect the ability of our honey bees to survive and reproduce.

#### THE OUTPUT

The information collected in a common document will contribute on an international level to our understanding of how apiculture practices affect honey bee genetics, health and productivity. The main question is if selection, commercial queen rearing at a large scale, instrumental insemination and damage to feral colony populations due to *Varroa*, affect the genetic variability (and the health) of productive honey bee colonies.



#### PERSPECTIVES

The Apimondia working group on honey bee diversity and fitness is open to any useful contribution providing information from every continent, in order to support apicultural practice. Contributions can be forwarded to the group coordinator Maria Bouga (mbouga@aua.gr)