



Sustainable Beekeeping Practices Adoption by Women Cooperatives in Malawi: Economic Benefits and Environmental Impact Evaluation

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Published: 13 August 2002 | **Received:** 11 April 2002 | **Accepted:** 12 July 2002

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18751921](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18751921)

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Abstract

Sustainable beekeeping practices have been identified as a promising strategy for enhancing agricultural productivity and biodiversity in Malawi, particularly benefiting women-led cooperatives. Qualitative data collection methods were employed through semi-structured interviews with cooperative members, focus group discussions, and field observations. Quantitative data included financial records and ecological assessments. Women's cooperatives achieved an average annual income increase of 30% from beekeeping activities, attributed to improved honey production quality and market access. The study confirms the viability of sustainable beekeeping as a profitable and environmentally friendly venture for women-led agricultural enterprises in Malawi. Policy makers should incentivize cooperative membership and provide training on sustainable practices to further support economic growth and environmental conservation.

Keywords: *African Geography, Beekeeping Practices, Community Development, Ecological Economics, Participatory Action Research, Sustainable Development, Women's Empowerment*

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