



ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL CONCLAVE ON STINGLESS HONEYBEES

YMCA, Thiruvananthapuram

18-19 June 2024

Federation of Indigenous Apiculturists (FIA), Thiruvananthapuram has immense pleasure to cordially invite you and welcome you to **NATIONAL CONCLAVE ON STINGLESS HONEYBEES, Co-organised by Federation of Indigenous Apiculturists and Entomological Society of India.** This event is organised YMCA, Thiruvananthapuram on 18 & 19 June 2024 at Thiruvananthapuram. This is jointly organised event with **Entomological Society of India** is one of its kind.

Meliponaculture (**artisanal bee keeping of Stingless bees**) has been in practise from ancient times in many Indian states. Similar efforts by farmers in other states such as Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, to site a few, has carved out a farm pollination ecology for increased commodity yield and quality in cross-pollinated crops. These bees are today possible to be commercially grown in large numbers as artisanal enterprise. They are major pollinators of crops such as coconut, vegetables, fruits and all polyhouse / net house

crops. The honey produced by these bees (200-500 g per colony per season) has high medicinal value and are extensively demanded by Ayurveda pharmaceutical industry. Processed honey from these colonies has built up self-employed farm families as business. Based on the experience of bee farmers it is now a very attractive enterprise especially for womenfolk in rural areas. Thanks to the techniques to home and culture eusocial Stingless honeybees has been accepted by bee farmers and is practised. Indian research to home and culture the various species of Stingless honey bees in the last few decades has paid rich dividend. The Conclave is expected to provide forum for sharing experiences and knowledge of bee farmers and scientists to enrich knowledge base and updating new techniques for improving meliponiculture as agri-business through Youth skilling and empowerment.

Aligning with national policies on Youth Skilling Mission, FIA has stepped forward along with ESI to forge knowledge and scientific outcome.