



SURVEY RESULTS - IRELAND

Deliverable IO1.A1

This project has been funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

The information and views set out in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Neither the European Union institutions and bodies nor any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Project number: 2019-1-UK01-KA204 062075

PUBLIC

CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020

Revision History

Version	Date	Author	Description	Action	Pages
[01]	08/04/2020	CCSDE	[Creation]	[C]	13

(*) Action: C = Creation, I = Insert, U = Update, R = Replace, D = Delete

Referenced Documents

ID	Reference	Title
1	2019-1-UK01-KA204 062075	Plan Bee Proposal
2		

Applicable Documents

ID	Reference	Title
1	IO1.A1 Deliverable	IO1.A1 National report_Ireland

PUBLIC

CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020

Contents

1. Introduction	4
1.1 Methodology	4
1.2 Participants.....	5
Key facts:	7
2. Survey results	7
Key facts:	13
3. Conclusions	13

PUBLIC

CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020

1. Introduction

1.1 Methodology

The Plan Bee project is dedicated to support beekeepers in the acquisition of knowledge and skills required to successfully run and sustain a beekeeping business within a global market.

Within this context, a survey was conducted in order to identify the gap between market's prerequisites and beekeepers' knowledge regarding the lifecycle and disease prevention of bees along with other key elements that establish sustainable beekeeping.

In particular, in the effort to recruit participants that represent the project target group, an online questionnaire was distributed among several associations supporting beekeeping and actual beekeeping organizations or suppliers via email and social media. Examples of such organizations are:

- Irish Bee Suppliers
- Donegal Bees
- Mill Lane Beekeeping
- Donegal Diaspora
- Dingle Beekeeping Supplies
- Irish Beekeepers' Association
- Galtee Honey Farm
- Sliabh Aughty Honey
- The Federation of Irish Beekeepers Associations
- Ben Harden Beekeeping
- etc.

Under the assumption that all organizations contacted would share the online questionnaire with their contacts, we managed to gather 36 responses from participants representing the direct and indirect project target group, providing the opportunity to get them exposed to the project initiative and ensure their participation in further activities.

In order to recruit even more participants, useful information about the project was provided in the invitation email. More specifically, a detailed description about the objectives, the target group, the methodology and the expected tangible and intangible results of the project was provided to the recipients.

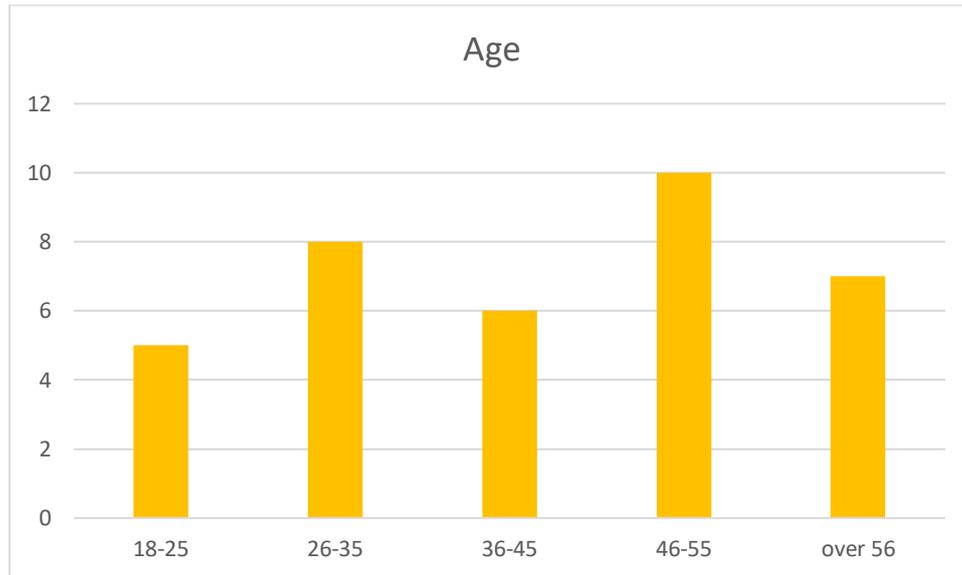
PUBLIC

CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020

1.2 Participants

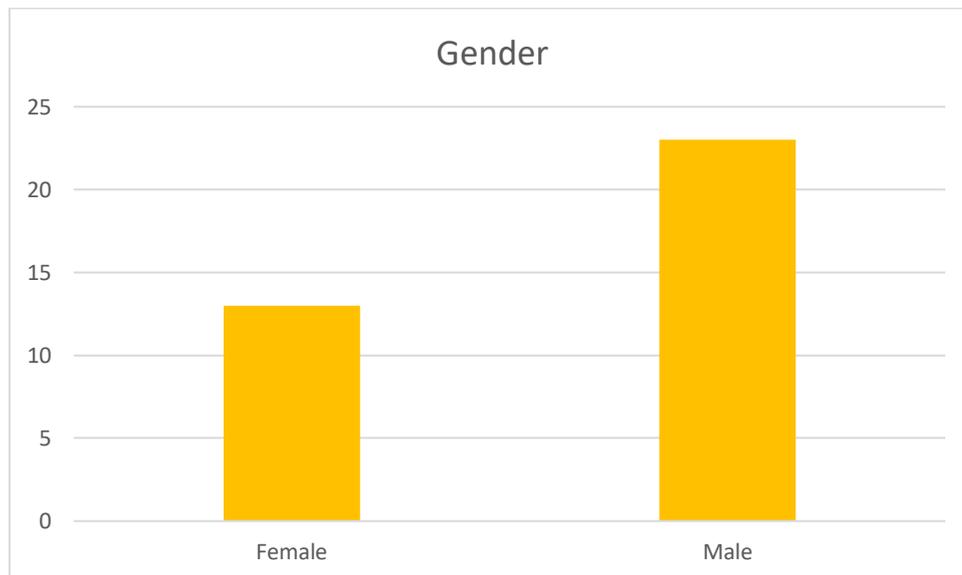
Regarding the demographic data of the respondents, the following answers were received as depicted in the graphs:

- Age:



Graph 1. Age of the participants

- Gender:



Graph 2. Gender of the participants

PUBLIC

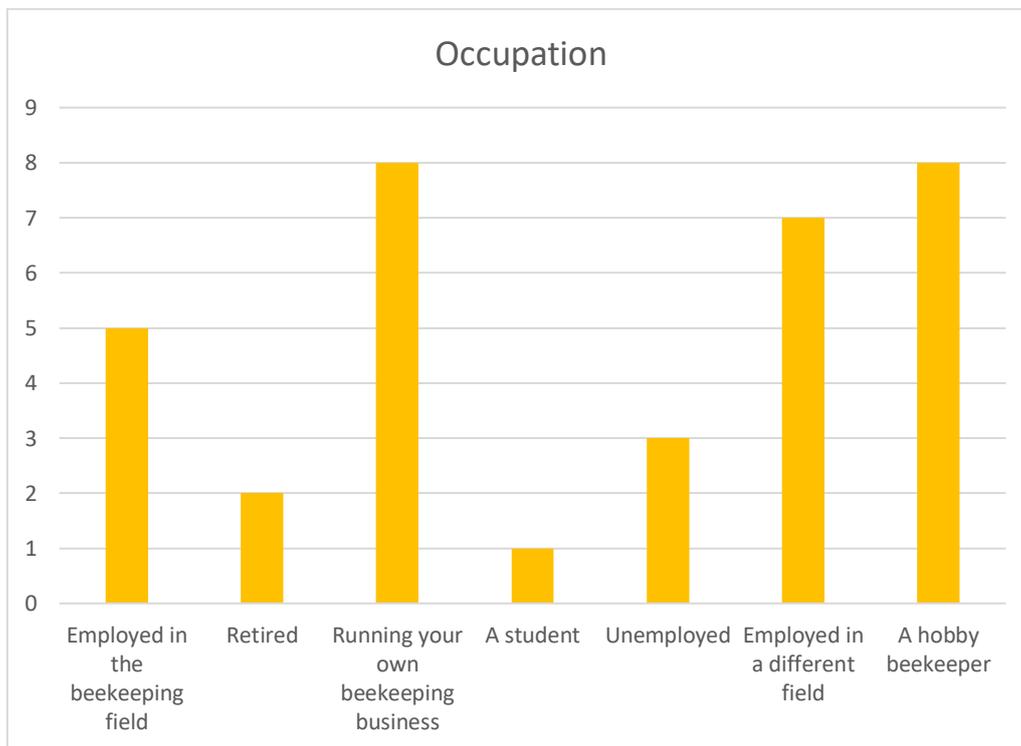
CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020

- Location:



Graph 3. Location of the participants

- Occupation:



Graph 4. Main occupation of the participants

PUBLIC

CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020

Key facts:

The main conclusions drawn from the above responses revolve around:

- More than 30% of the respondents aging 46 to 54 with the majority being men.
- Almost 50% of the participants living in large cities
- Most of the respondents either running their own beekeeping business or having beekeeping as a hobby

2. Survey results

This part refers to the answers related to participants' background knowledge and skills towards running and sustaining beekeeping businesses. The results are depicted in the following graphs:

- **Have you ever attended a formal or informal training in beekeeping?**



Graph 5. Previous participation in formal or informal trainings for beekeeping

- **If yes, please provide more details (title, organiser, length, type, etc.).**

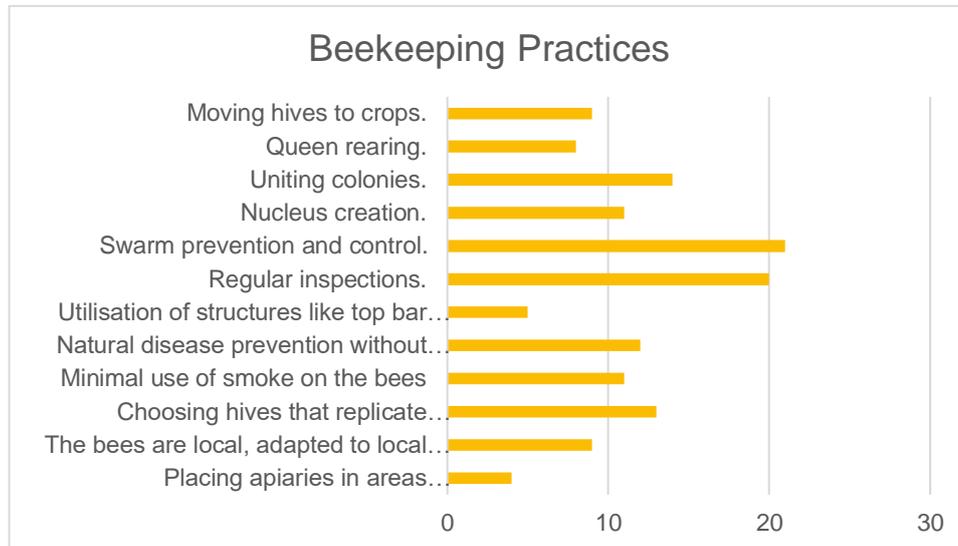
The answers regarding the above questions are:

1. GALWAY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, beginners course, 7 weeks
2. Beginners classes, WATERFORD BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION, 6 weeks
3. Bee Keeping, Clane Community School, practical workshop
4. Beginners workshop
5. local and other beekeeping associations
6. Beginners' Beekeeping Course, Galway Beekeepers Association, 7 weeks, face2face, 2018

PUBLIC

CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020

- Which of the below beekeeping practices are you familiar with?



Graph 6. Beekeeping Practices

In this question respondents had to choose between the following answers:

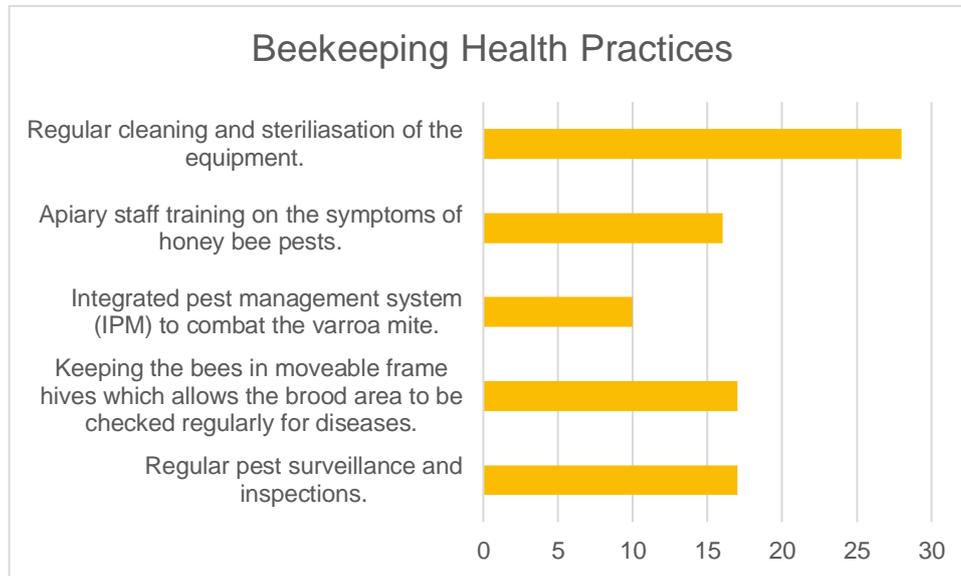
- Placing apiaries in areas surrounded by native vegetation or organic operations, free of GMOs -and pesticides.
- The bees are local, adapted to local microclimates and environment
- Choosing hives that replicate natural sites used by bees, e.g. hollow trees, cavities, wooden hives.
- Minimal use of smoke on the bees
- Natural disease prevention without the use of synthetic treatments.
- Utilisation of structures like top bar hives, which allow the bees to create their own hive.
- Regular inspections.
- Swarm prevention and control.
- Nucleus creation.
- Uniting colonies.
- Queen rearing.
- Moving hives to crops.

According to the answers the most usual beekeeping practices are regular inspections and swarm and prevention control, while the less known practice is the placing of apiaries in areas surrounded by native vegetation or organic operations, free of GMOs and pesticides.

PUBLIC

CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020

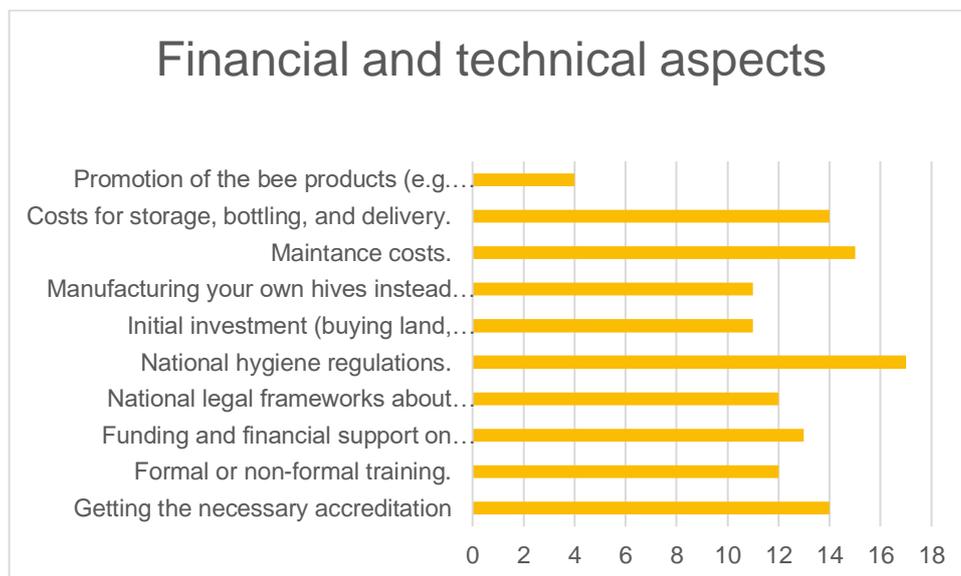
- Which of the below bee health practices are you familiar with?



Graph 6. Beekeeping Health Practices

According to the answers the most of beekeepers know how to clean and sterilize, while only few of them know how to integrate pest management system to combat the varroa mite.

- Which of the below financial and technical aspects of setting up and running a beekeeping business are you familiar with?



Graph 7. Financial and technical aspects of setting up and running a beekeeping business

PUBLIC

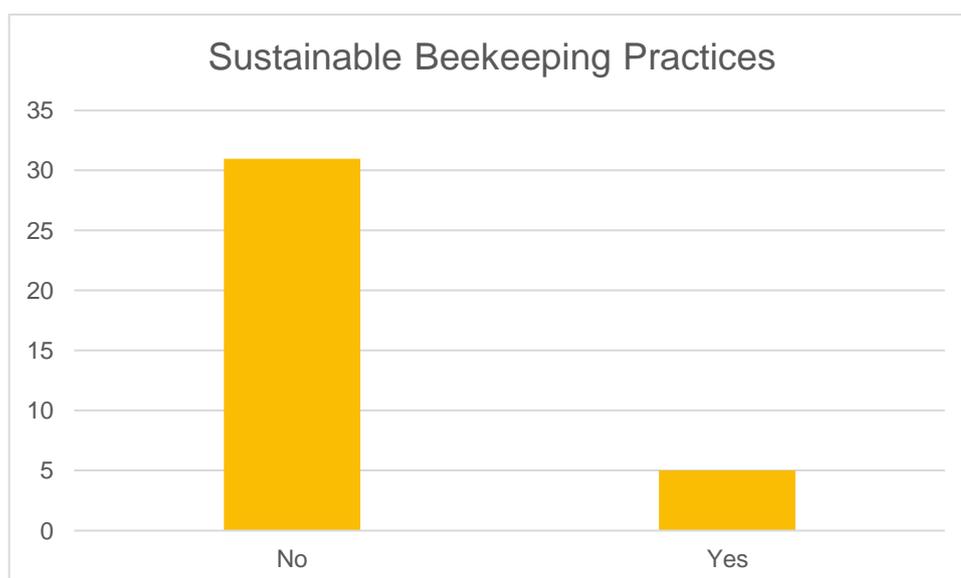
CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020

In this question participants were able to select the following choices:

- Getting the necessary accreditation (depending on your country's legislation).
- Formal or non-formal training.
- Funding and financial support on national or European level.
- National legal frameworks about apiculture.
- National hygiene regulations.
- Initial investment (buying land, beehives, equipments, bee colonies, etc.).
- Manufacturing your own hives instead of buying them.
- Maintenance costs.
- Costs for storage, bottling, and delivery.
- Promotion of the bee products (e.g. digital marketing, social media, local or national fairs, etc.)

Given the results, most of the respondents are familiar with national hygiene regulations, while only few of them feeling confident in promoting their bee products.

-If you are a working in the beekeeping field, are you following any sustainable beekeeping practices?



Graph 8. Sustainable Beekeeping Practices

- **If yes, please provide more details (title, organiser, length, type, etc.).**

The answers regarding the above questions are:

1. I am avoiding to unite colonies and to transfer honeycombs from one colony to another if I don't know the exact situation of colonies health.
2. Frequently check on the health status of colonies
3. Doing my own splits & not buying in queens.

PUBLIC

CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020

4. I use white sugar (sucrose) to feed the bees.
5. Rearing own queens

- **What do you consider the main obstacles in setting up and running a beekeeping business?**

The answers received in the questions are the following:

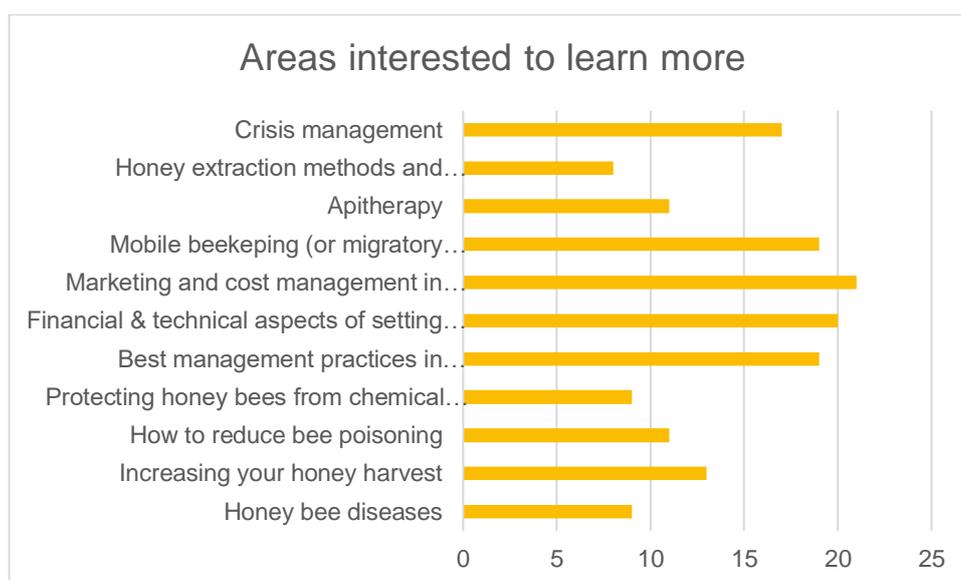
1. The lack of essential information
2. There is not guaranteed that a beekeeping business is something that you can make money from.
3. The promotion of the products in other countries.
4. The lack of information in e-commerce sector.
5. There are not many obstacles
6. The initial investment
7. Training
8. Financial support
9. The lack of opportunities for do so.
10. Bees diseases
11. The amount of costs at the beginning
12. The initial investment requires a large capital.
13. There are not obstacles.
14. That someone has to export the products, but the means are few and competition big.
15. The absence of funding opportunities
16. Maintenance costs
17. The lack of information about beekeeping
18. Financial support
19. To maintenance the business, in case you don't have profit from it.
20. The lack of funding opportunities.
21. Initial investment
22. The lack of beekeeping courses
23. The few employment opportunities in this field, which is essential for later running your own business.
24. Apiary and Bee health
25. The online marketing
26. Export the product
27. Expense
28. The amount of time and effort you have to provide in order for your business to succeed.
29. There are not enough formal training courses.
30. There are not enough funding resources

PUBLIC

CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020

31. Maintenance costs
32. It is unsure if I'll have enough profit from that
33. To set up an online commerce strategy.
34. Financial aspect, marketing techniques, know-how of running a business
35. not interested in running beekeeping business
36. The lack of training.

- Which of the below areas are you interested in learning more about?



Graph 9. Areas interested to learn more

In this section respondents choose among these options:

- Bees and environmental sustainability
- Bees and their role in forest livelihoods
- The lifecycle of bees
- Honey bee diseases
- Increasing your honey harvest
- How to reduce bee poisoning
- Protecting honey bees from chemical pesticides
- Best management practices in beekeeping
- Financial & technical aspects of setting up and operating a beekeeping business
- Marketing and cost management in bee products
- Mobile beekeeping (or migratory beekeeping)
- Apitherapy
- Honey extraction methods and techniques
- Crisis management

PUBLIC

CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020

Key facts:

The main conclusions drawn from the above responses revolve around:

- 30 out of 36 respondents have never attended a formal or informal training regarding beekeeping
- The beekeeping practices that participants are least familiar with include placing apiaries in areas surrounded by native vegetation or organic operations, free of GMOs -and pesticides and utilisation of structures like top bar hives, which allow the bees to create their own hive.
- Regarding beekeeping health protection, the practice that participants are least familiar with refers to ways of integrating pest management system to combat the varroa mite.
- As for financial and technical aspects, the practice that participants are less familiar with concerns the promotion of bee products.
- 31 out of 36 participants are not familiar with any sustainable beekeeping practices.
- The areas that attract a higher interest comprise: Best management practices in beekeeping, Financial & technical aspects of setting up and operating a beekeeping business, Marketing and cost management in bee products and Mobile beekeeping (or migratory beekeeping).
- On the contrary, participants are less interested in learning more about the protection of honey bees from chemical pesticides and honey extraction methods and techniques.

3. Conclusions

The analysis of survey's results shows that most of participants are familiar with beekeeping practices and techniques and are aware of how to set up and run a bee keeping business. Nevertheless, there are some problems that beekeepers confront, and the most of them are located in the export of their products. Considering their answers, only a small percentage of the participants can use online tools for the promotion of beekeeping products, while the majority of them are interested in learning about marketing and cost management in bee products. It stands to reason that most of them are interested in this field, as the knowledge of technical and maintenance aspects of the business are necessary, but the acquisition of information regarding the promotion and the export of beekeeping products is vital for the business to succeed.

PUBLIC

CCSDE	Deliverable: 2
Plan Bee	Version: 1
IO1.A1 Survey results - Ireland	Issue Date: 08/04/2020