



SURVEY RESULTS - SPAIN

Deliverable IO1.A1

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FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
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Revision History

Version	Date	Author	Description	Action	Pages
[01]	23/04/2020	FyG Consultores	[Creation]	[C]	[14 pag]

(*) 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	FyG Consultores	IO1.A1 Survey Results_Spain

PUBLIC

FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
Survey Results Spain	Issue Date: 23/04/2020

Contents

1. Introduction	4
1.1. Methodology	4
1.2. Participants	4
2. Survey results	6
3. Conclusions	13

PUBLIC

FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
Survey Results Spain	Issue Date: 23/04/2020

1. Introduction

1.1. Methodology

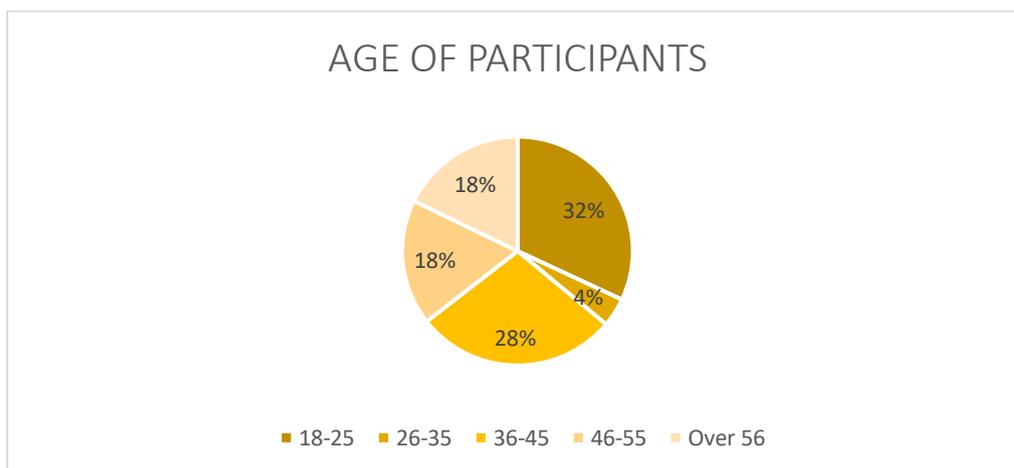
The original survey agreed by all the partners was translated in Spanish and disseminated among experienced beekeepers from all Spain. Due to the quarantine exceptional situation, the professionals have been contacted through the Internet and via telephone as well and the final number of answers was 36. Spanish beekeeping institutions and associations, as well as independent beekeepers and beekeeping enthusiasts, were the main participants:

- AEA: Spanish Association of Beekeepers
- APIADS: Beekeeping Health Defense Group
- Online blog: Beekeeping Life (Vida Apícola <https://www.vidaapicola.com>)
- Independent beekeepers from different autonomous communities (i.e. Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León, Valencian Community, etc.)

1.2. Participants

The number of received answers was 36. The demographic characteristics of the participants were the following:

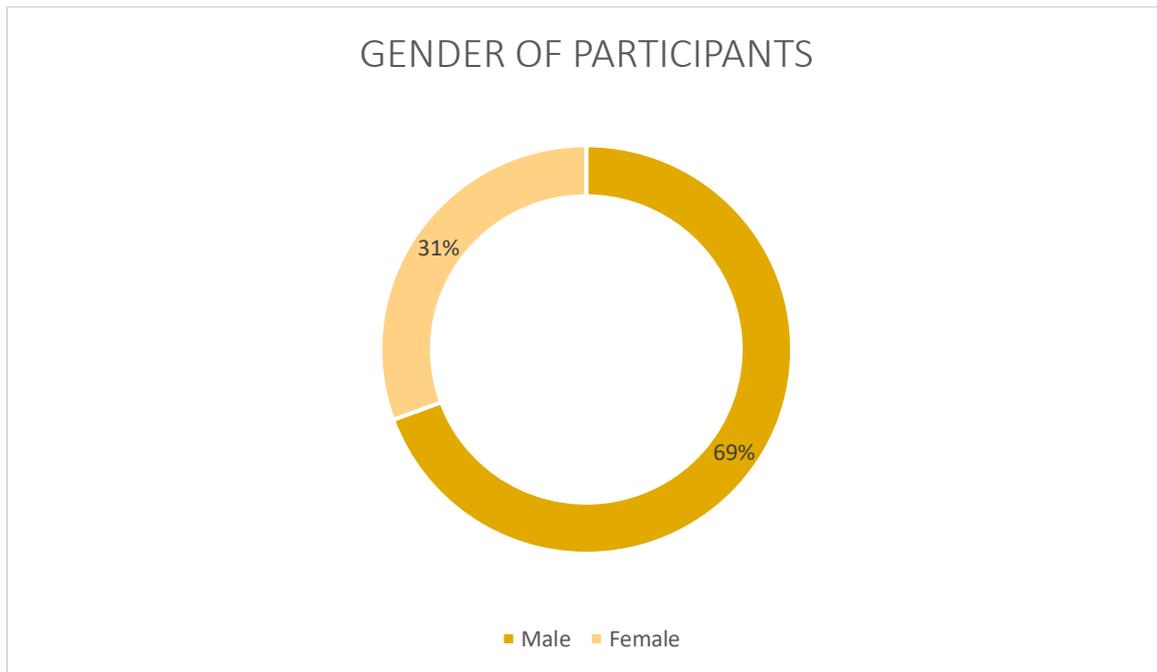
- Age of participants



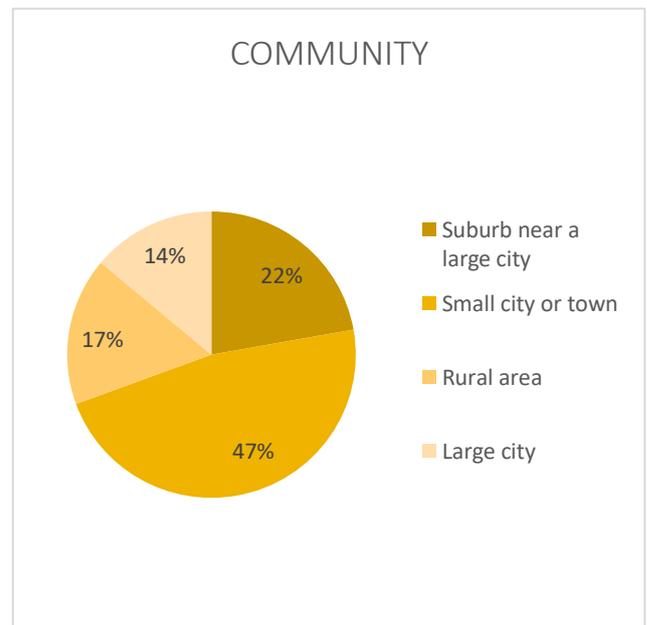
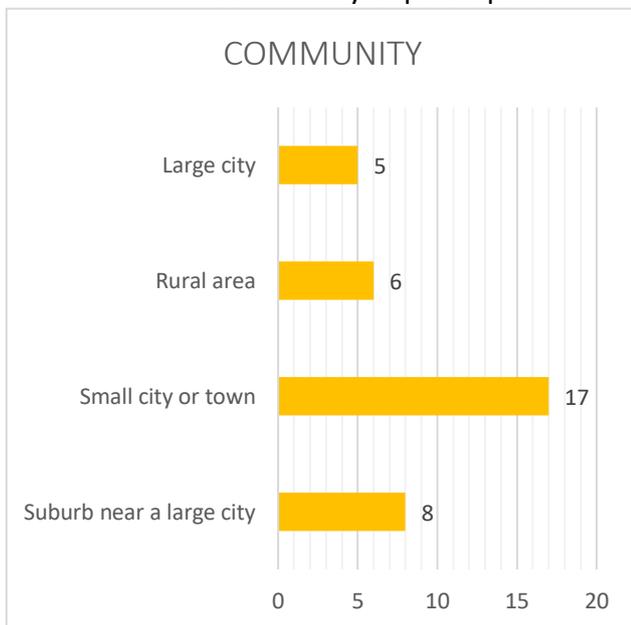
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FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
Survey Results Spain	Issue Date: 23/04/2020

- Gender of participants



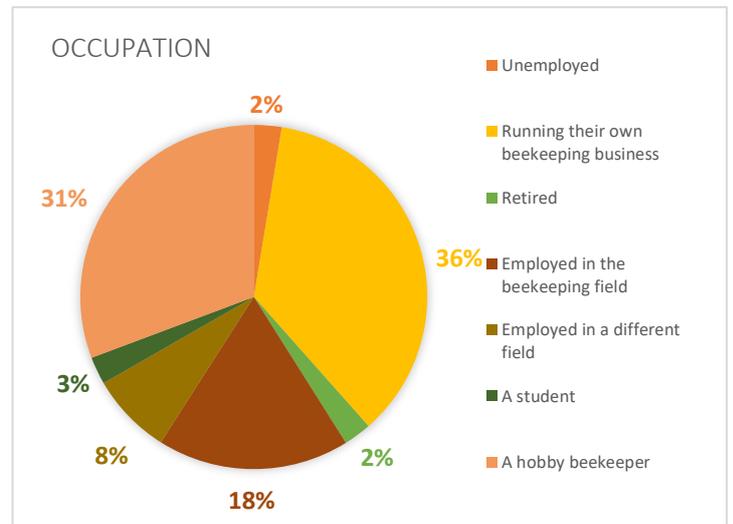
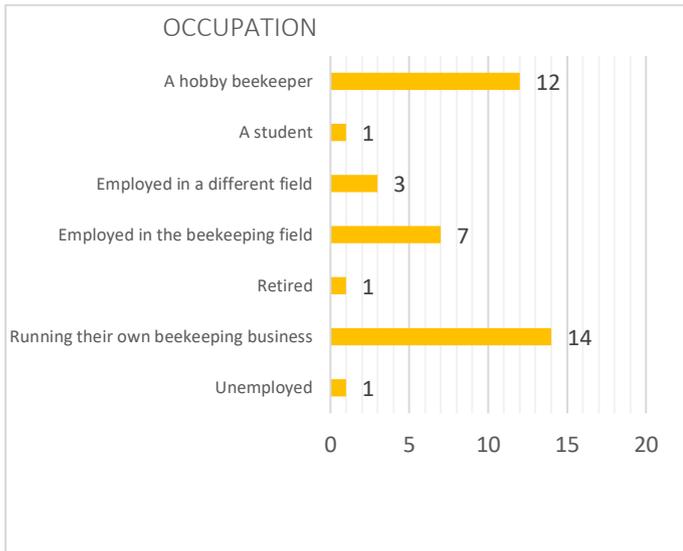
- Community of participants



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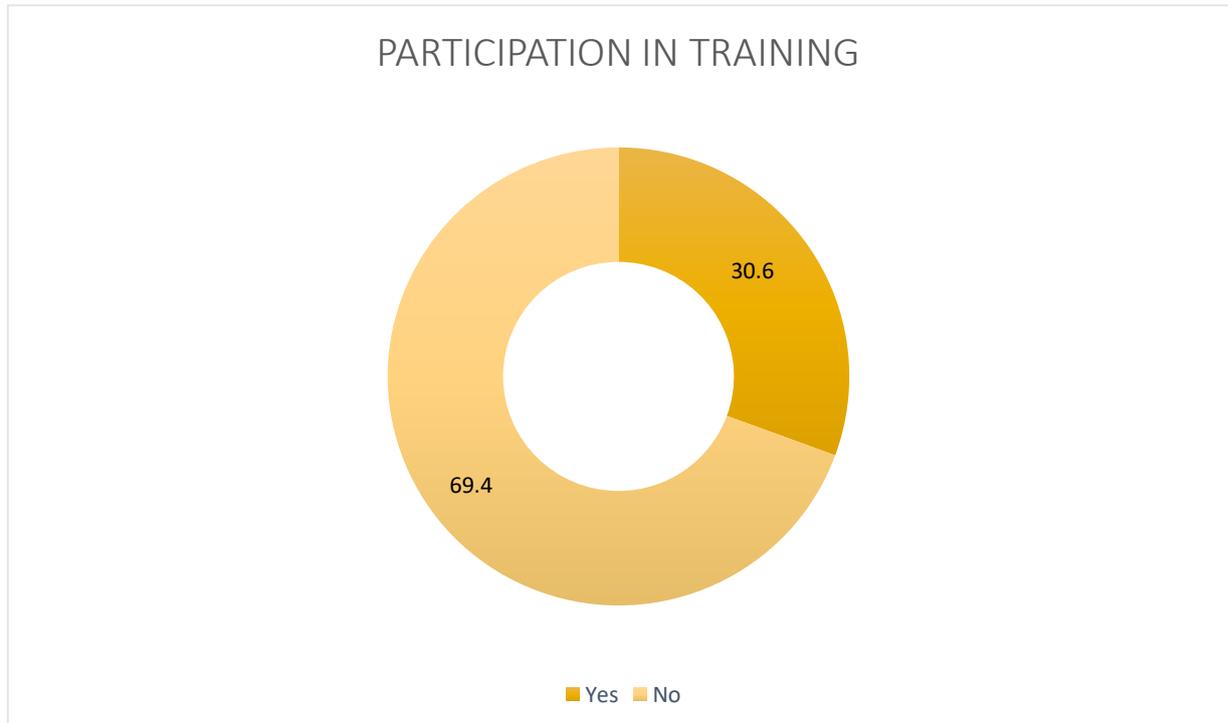
FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
Survey Results Spain	Issue Date: 23/04/2020

- Occupation of participants



2. Survey results

Question: Have you ever attended a formal or informal training in beekeeping?



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FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
Survey Results Spain	Issue Date: 23/04/2020

The participants that answered “yes”, referred different trainings and providing institutions:

- Spanish City Councils (one-week courses, sporadic workshops)
- Online courses (15 hours average)
- Technical University of Madrid – Professional Certification in Beekeeping (Madrid, Spain)
- APIADS (Bee Health Defence Group) (Valencia Spain) – Training courses for professional beekeepers
- Diploma in Beekeeping Management and Production
- Courses for beginners in beekeeping and basic concepts
- Diploma in Beekeeping Management and Production (Guadalajara, Spain)
- Castilla y León VET School - Agricultural technician (Castilla y León, Spain)

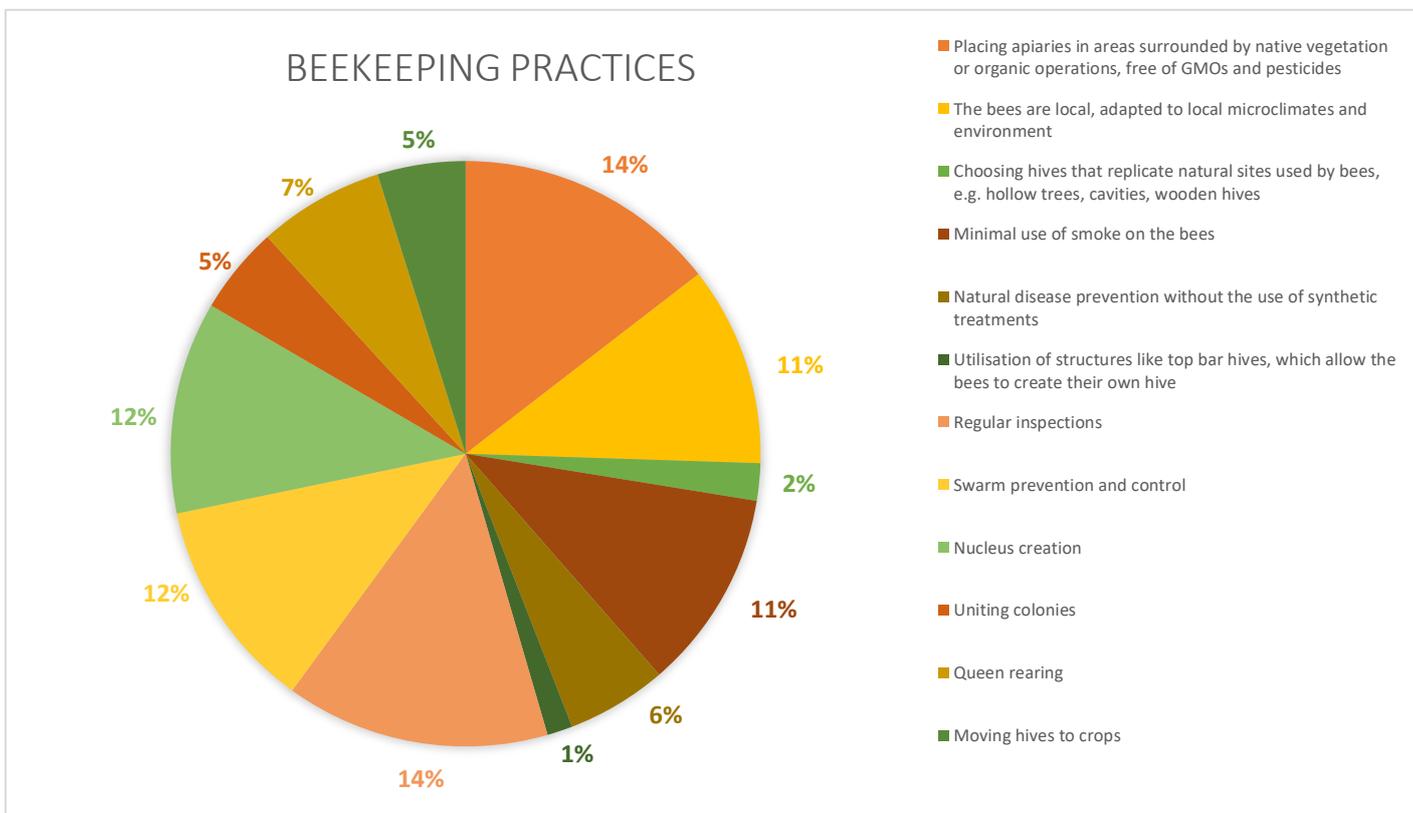
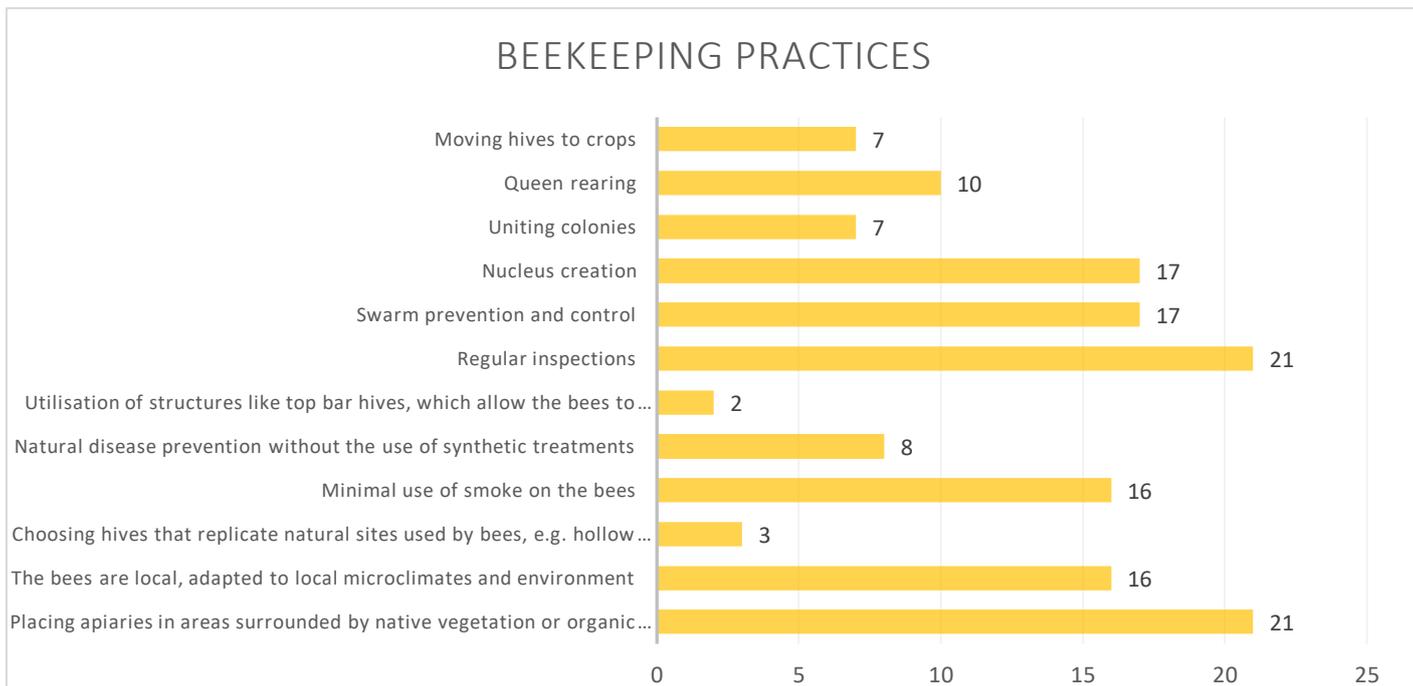
Regarding the topics that were covered on the trainings

- Hives
- Diseases of bees and bee health
- Varroa control
- Life cycle of a bee
- Qualification of the honey
- Queen bees
- Bee feeding
- Apitherapy
- Legislation of the scales to be able to commercialize the product
- Ecologic beekeeping
- Some of the participants also referred that their training was based only in their background of wide knowledge, as they come from beekeeping families. Their knowledge was based in traditions and mouth-to-mouth informal training.

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FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
Survey Results Spain	Issue Date: 23/04/2020

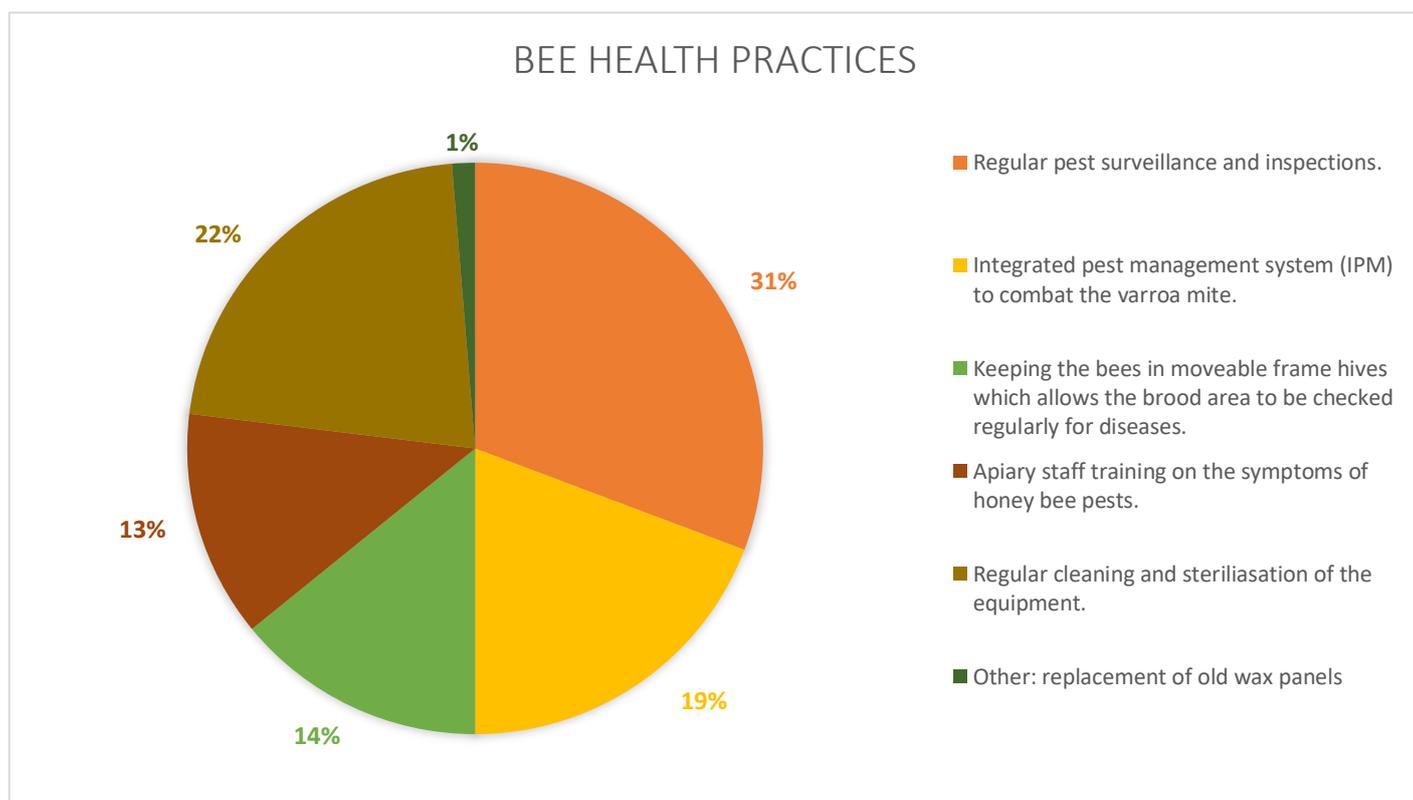
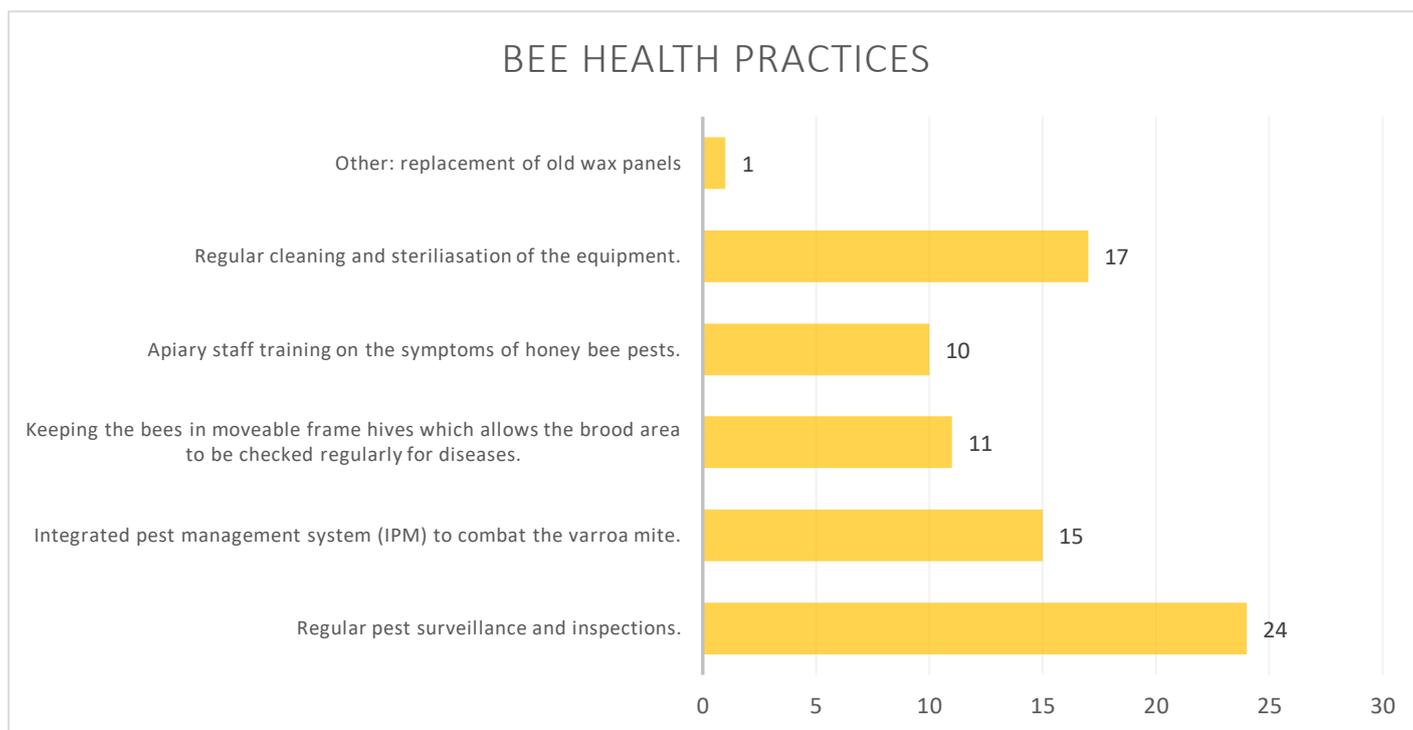
Question: Which of the below beekeeping practices are you familiar with?



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FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
Survey Results Spain	Issue Date: 23/04/2020

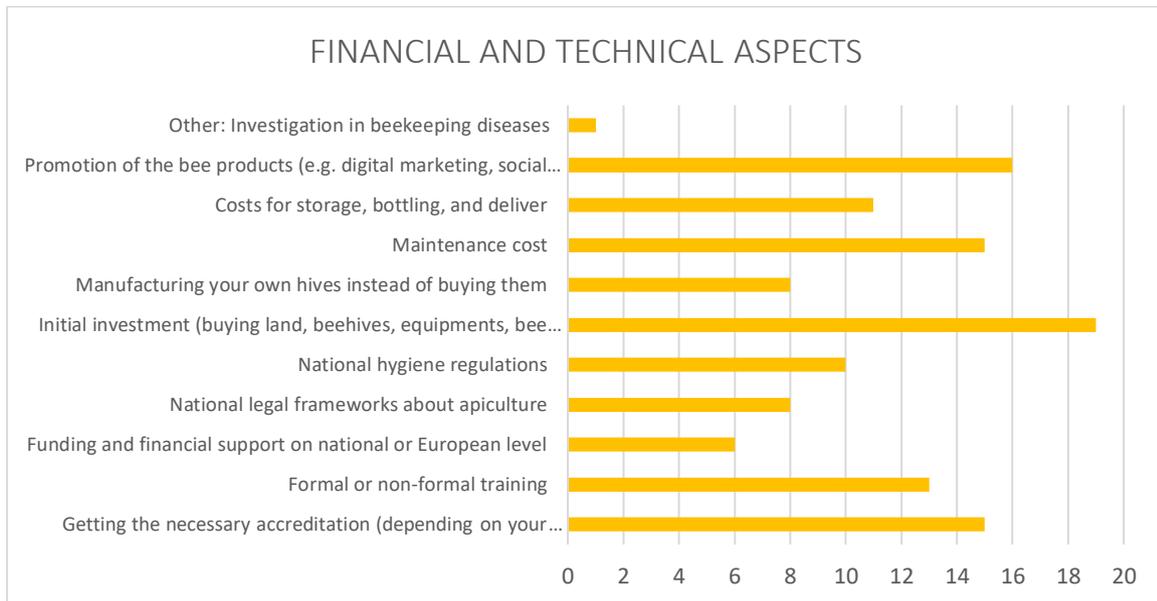
Question: Which of the below bee health practices are you familiar with?



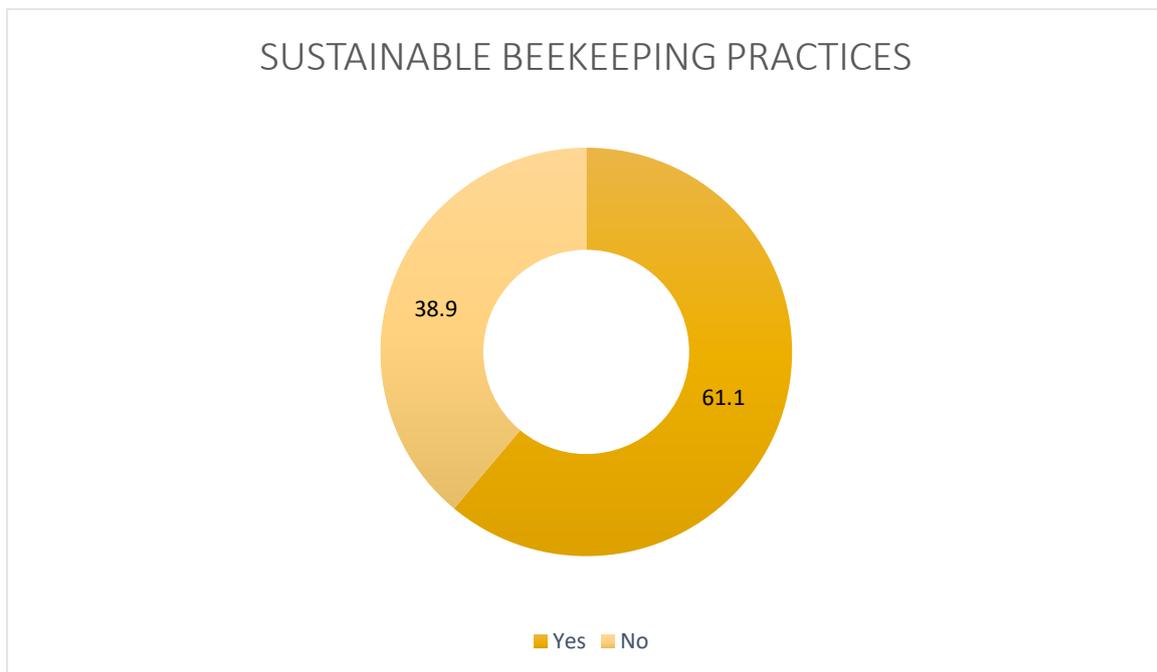
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FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
Survey Results Spain	Issue Date: 23/04/2020

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



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



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FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
Survey Results Spain	Issue Date: 23/04/2020

The participants that answered yes to the above question, mentioned the following sustainable beekeeping practices:

- Traditional and generational knowledge
- Self-management, genetic selection by instrumental insemination of queen bees
- Treatment of diseases without harmful chemicals or poisons
- Minimize chemical acaricide treatments and seek sustainable beekeeping
- Control varroa by removing drone breeding, bring the hives to wild vegetation and less to crops
- Pesticide-free, chemical-free, low-honey extraction, long queen's cycle
- Best practices in beekeeping and manufacturing as productive management

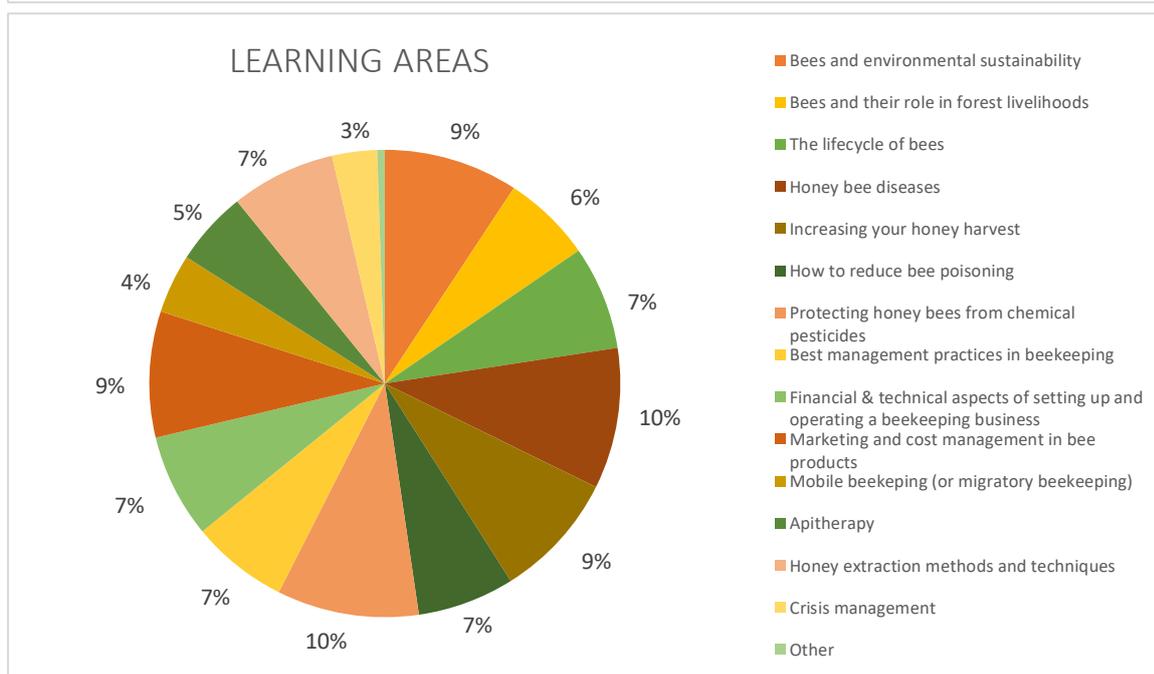
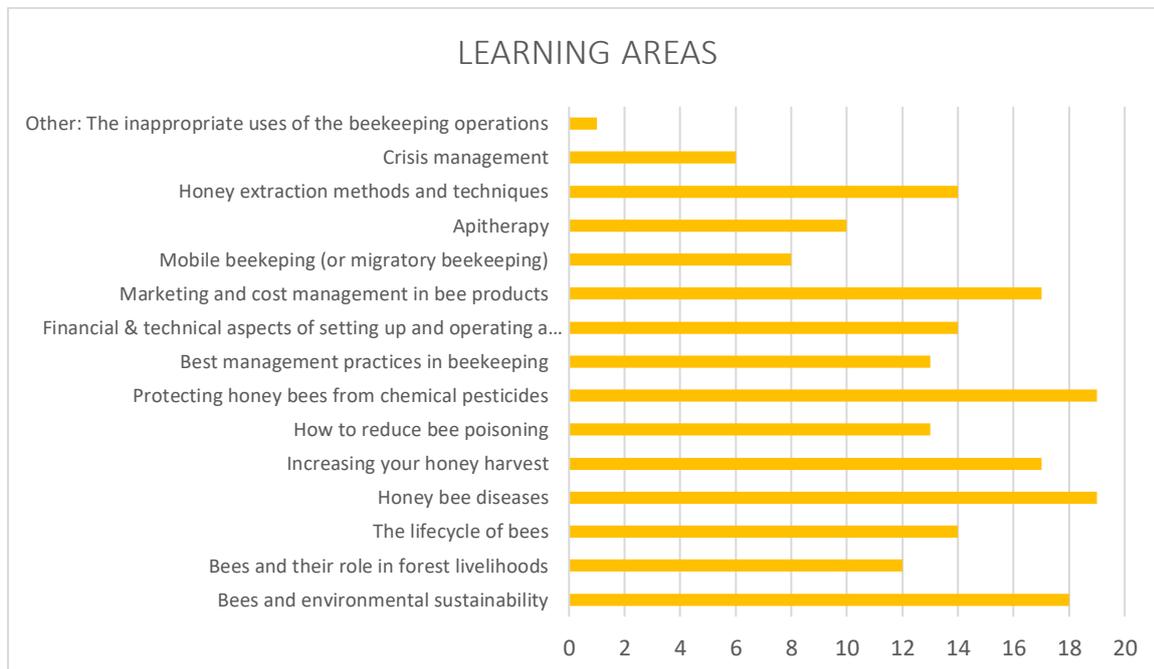
Question: What do you consider the main obstacles in setting up and running a beekeeping business?

The different answers given by the participants could be summarized in the following barriers:

- Lack of information for starting the business (most answered one)
- Lack of information about beekeeping (which materials are necessary, basic information about bees, etc.) and training
- Lack of estate aids
- How to increase the growth of the business
- Regulations (confusing, lack of homogeneity)
- Strong competence due to Chinese honey and derivatives
- Lack of investigation of bees' diseases and varroa
- Climate change
- Low profitability
- High costs of the materials

PUBLIC

FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
Survey Results Spain	Issue Date: 23/04/2020

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


PUBLIC

FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
Survey Results Spain	Issue Date: 23/04/2020

3. Conclusions

The survey was useful to know the concerns and improving areas of beekeepers and potential beekeepers in Spain. The professionals were very engaged with the project and interested in it. The main conclusions that we can extract are the following.

- Regarding the demographic aspects, it's interesting to see the number of amateur beekeepers that we can find. This is important in the scope of PLAN BEE, as these potential beekeepers can obtain a lot of benefits from the project.
- Participation in training was lower than expected. The survey demonstrated that most beekeepers already working on beekeeping do not have the proper training, both at the beginning of their activities and during them, with periodicity. Moreover, several answers were highlighting that their only training has been their familiar background. The ones who affirmed having been in training referred them as informal or short ones, being insufficient for being capable of dealing with all the aspects and problems that arise in the daily basis of their business. The few numbers of participants that referred to having formal certificates or titles were from agricultural institutions, which is positive.

The topics that were covered in the training were diverse, from the lifecycle of the bees to the diseases and varroa acarus, as well as aspects of legislation and honey in a broad sense.

- The most known beekeeping practices are the placing apiaries in areas surrounded by native vegetation or organic operations, free of GMOs and pesticides and the regular inspections. The less known are those regarding the utilisation of structures like top bar hives, which allow the bees to create their own hive and choosing hives that replicate natural sites used by bees, e.g. hollow trees, cavities, wooden hives.
- The most known bee health practices are the regular pest surveillance and inspections as well as the regular cleaning and sterilisation of the equipment.
- Most of the information that the participants know about the financial and technical aspects of setting up and running a beekeeping business is about initial investment and promotion of the bee products. The less known are those regarding funding and financial support on national or European level and national legal frameworks about apiculture.

PUBLIC

FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
Survey Results Spain	Issue Date: 23/04/2020

- Regarding sustainable beekeeping, 61% of the participants were using this kind of practices. The most mentioned ones were the ones trying to exclude chemicals from the whole process of beekeeping to preserve the health of bees and the environment too as well as ensuring the quality of the products (elimination of varroa, diseases, honey extraction, etc.).
- Different aspects were pointed when answering about problems when starting and running a beekeeping business but the most important ones for the interviewees were both the lack of information about beekeeping and training (which materials are necessary, basic information about bees, etc.) as well as the lack of information about how to start running a beekeeping business.
- Finally, about the areas in which they would want to learn and improve, were a lot; almost all proposed topics were selected by most participants. However, the highest scores have been for the sustainability in beekeeping; protection of honey bees from chemical pesticides, honey bee diseases and bees and environmental sustainability. There's also concern about the financial sphere and maximization of processes; increasing your honey harvest, and marketing and cost management in bee products. There was also an alternative answer which stated the importance of learning more about the inappropriate uses of the beekeeping operations

This survey showed the reality of a business in which sustainable practices are becoming a key element from its development. The beekeepers are lacking not only basic information but also more professional one to be able to develop businesses in the most effective form.

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FyG Consultores	Deliverable: IO1.A1
Plan Bee	Version: 1
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