



## Training on Introduction to Creative Economic Enterprises: 'Trigona A-Bee Honey Cultivation' for Students of Alfata Islamic School, Banda Aceh

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### ABSTRACT

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Beekeeping is a productive economic activity that can contribute to food security programs. However, a lack of knowledge about this activity within the community has resulted in its underutilization. This venture must be promoted to the community, especially to children, to leverage its potential as a source of family income. Training has been conducted at Alfata Islamic Boarding School in Banda Aceh to provide students with knowledge about stingless beekeeping and its benefits. Methods employed included providing materials, conducting site visits, performing practical exercises, and evaluating initial and final knowledge. The results showed that the participants were highly interested after learning about the cultivation methods and outcomes. They gained knowledge about types of bees that can be cultivated, cultivation methods, harvesting processes, health benefits of honey, and sales outcomes of A Bee Honey.

## 1. Introduction

Community empowerment is an economic development concept that incorporates social values. It reflects a new development paradigm that is "people-centered, participatory, empowering, and sustainable." It is broader than merely meeting basic needs or providing a safety net to prevent further impoverishment, an idea that has recently emerged as an alternative to past growth concepts. The various differences that arise will lead to high social unrest. Therefore, it is crucial for companies to adapt to the surrounding community and establish relationships. The potential of local businesses is a national asset that, if utilized fully, can increase national income and improve community welfare (D. A. Hildawati, 2007). Indonesia, a country with abundant natural resources, undoubtedly has numerous local products with potential in every region (Yarmaliza et al., 2022a).

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Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) form the foundation of the economy and are key to improving the national economy because most Indonesian businesses are SMEs that absorb a lot of labor and utilize domestic resources. The creative economy is a concept in which science and technology contribute to economic development and growth. The creative industry generates economic benefits and encourages the emergence of new ideas and innovations that foster competition

In the economic world and business life, generating maximum income and improving the welfare of the community. While the creative industry is not necessarily financially viable, it can be beneficial in terms of morality, culture, nature, and the community environment (2).

The higher selling price of Kelulut honey compared to forest honey (*Apis sp.*) and its ease of maintenance have attracted people to cultivate it. Currently, Kelulut honey sells for around 300,000 rupiah per kilogram at the distributor level, while regular honey sells for around 200,000 rupiah per kilogram (Kamaruddin, 2002). Kelulut honey has also been found to have a superior nutritional content compared to regular honey. For instance, propolis produced by *Trigona* species exhibits antimicrobial activity against *Salmonella* bacteria (Hasan et al., 2011). Kelulut honey is comparable to forest honey (*Apis dorsata*) in its ability to control blood cholesterol levels (Rahma et al., 2014). Using *Trigona* honey to enhance cognitive performance is an intriguing target for future studies. Its biochemical effects make *Trigona* honey a potential complementary therapy for reducing neuroinflammation and preventing the rapid progression of post-stroke vascular cognitive impairment (VCI) (Sabarisah Hasim et al., 2021).

The *Trigona* bee farming training conducted last year by Pengabdian with the Mitra A Bee Honey group sparked public interest in raising these bees. Publication of the community service initiative on the online media platforms *acehsiana.com* and *Unimalnews* has also attracted interest in raising these bees. This serves as promotional material for the development of this business, with the knowledge gained by participants.

Following the pandemic, changes in government policy and Presidential Regulation No. 104 of 2021 on the detailed budget for fiscal year 2022 stipulate that village funds must be allocated to food and livestock resilience programs, with a minimum allocation of 20%. This requirement presents an opportunity for villages to strengthen their plant and animal food security programs and achieve a village free from hunger.

Village Funds allocated for food security and Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMG) should be used through a community empowerment approach, giving village communities the capacity to independently meet their food needs. Village funds are expected to support activities ranging from production and land provision to supporting infrastructure, processing, and marketing.

## **2. Method**

The training method used is the development or R&D (research and development) method. According to Sugiyono (2016), this is reinforced by the statement of Astriawati et al. (2022) that this method consists of the stages of planning, action, observation, and reflection. Additionally, Adi Bejo Suwardi et al. (2021) emphasize that the technology offered to target partners must be able to address critical community issues, while Junaidi et al. (2021) consider that technology transfer activities must contribute to improving the quality of life and income of the community.

## **3. Results**

### **3.1 Activity**

The training activity was conducted at the A Bee Honey Farming Site in Alue Awe Village on February 19, 2025. Participants consisted of 18 students from the fourth grade of Alfata Islamic Boarding School and teachers. The training process was divided into five stages:

### 1. Initial Evaluation

Before the activity began, participants were given a questionnaire to assess their basic understanding of Linot honey.

2. Materials, Site Visit, and Evaluation of Results. The activity started with a presentation on Linot bees, their types, cultivation techniques, and benefits, conducted indoors. The presentation explained the types of bees, how to obtain queen bees, and the cultivation process.



**Fig. 1.** Introduction of Triglona A-bee Honey Cultivation for the students

The second activity was a direct visit to the cultivation site to see the conditions firsthand and explain the details of the bee hive construction, namely the hive, the top, the location of the honey, and the harvesting practices.



**Fig. 2.** Visiting to the Triglona A-bee Honey Cultivation

The third activity was a discussion and question and answer session. This process gave participants the opportunity to ask the speakers questions about cultivation. The participants were very enthusiastic, with all of them asking questions about cultivation, how to obtain colonies, and

our sales process. At the end of the session, each participant received 50 ml of honey to consume and take home.



Fig. 3. Q n A Session

#### 4. Conclusions

From the results of the training conducted, it was concluded that training activities carried out using a combination of theory and practice are the most appropriate method for community service activities, as they allow participants to directly observe the process. Participants, particularly students, have gained knowledge of the procedures for cultivating linot honey, the harvesting process, and the methods involved, and have been able to experience the results in the form of linot honey that can be consumed. To further enhance understanding, it is recommended that schools or participants provide a bee colony at the school as an educational tool for students.

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