



POLICIES, ACTS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING APICULTURE PRODUCTION IN KENYA



Introduction

In Kenya, the apiculture sector plays a significant role in the economy, providing livelihoods for many and contributing to national food security. However, navigating the complex regulatory landscape governing beekeeping can present considerable challenges for beekeepers. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop an inventory of existing policies, acts, regulations, and rules to streamline operations and ensure compliance within the apiculture sector. This inventory will serve as a vital tool for increasing awareness among beekeepers through targeted training initiatives. By equipping beekeepers with knowledge about relevant laws and regulations, we empower them to make informed decisions, improve their practices, and ultimately enhance the sustainability and productivity of the apiculture sector in Kenya. This pamphlet presents some of the existing policies, acts, regulations, and rules that govern beekeeping in Kenya, underscoring the importance for beekeepers to acquaint themselves with these regulations. It aims to consolidate crucial information to facilitate better understanding and compliance within the beekeeping community, ultimately fostering a more efficient and sustainable sector.

Definitions of terms

Policy: It is a formal statement by government to guide decisions and actions in a particular area or on a specific issue. It is a framework for decision-making and provide direction for achieving objectives.

Act: Is a formal written law that is binding and enforceable on all individuals and entities within the jurisdiction governed by that legislative body. It sets out rules, regulations, rights, and obligations on various matters of public concern, such as governance, commerce, social welfare, and criminal justice.

Regulation: a rule or order issued by a government agency and often having the force of law.

Bill: A draft of a proposed law presented to parliament for discussion

The table that follow below highlights important policies, acts, and regulations governing apiculture. These regulations are specifically tailored to address various facets of the beekeeping industry, aiming to ensure comprehensive oversight and regulation across the entire apiculture value chain.

List of applicable policies governing Apiculture production in Kenya

Name of the Policy	Description	Value chain Node	Target
Kenya Constitution, 2010	This is the supreme law of the Republic of Kenya which contains provisions that are relevant to agricultural activities and the rights of farmers.	Whole Value chain	All stakeholders
Kenya Vision, 2030	It details various strategies to enhance livestock productivity, such as access to animal feeds through focused initiatives like seeding ranches and rangelands and providing enriched fodder	Whole Value chain	All stakeholders

<p>The National Livestock Policy, 2020</p>	<p>Provides a roadmap for enhancing the livestock sector in the country, focusing on improving animal breeds, nutrition, disease control, product sales, food safety, research, and the development of related laws and regulations</p>	<p>Whole Value chain</p>	<p>All stakeholders</p>
<p>National Beekeeping Policy 2009</p>	<p>The main goals are to boost honey and hive product production to meet local needs and have extra for export, enhance value addition throughout the beekeeping value chain, and improve marketing for global competitiveness. It also aims to safeguard honey bees, maintain product quality, and support environmental conservation efforts.</p>	<p>Whole Value chain</p>	<p>All stakeholders</p>

List of proposed Bills governing Apiculture production in Kenya

Name of the Bill	Description	Value chain Node	Target
Livestock Bill, 2021 (Draft)	<p>Provides for the development of livestock sector; regulation of inputs and livestock products, research and establishment of agencies.</p> <p>Part XII is on regulation and registration of breeders</p> <p>Part XIV is on registration of beekeepers and restrictions on setting up hives</p>	Production	Producers, feed manufacturers, breeders

List of applicable Acts governing Apiculture production in Kenya

Name of the Act	Description	Value chain Node	Target
Standards Act Cap 496 (1981 / 2012)	Aims to standardize commodity specifications and codes of practice, establish the Kenya Bureau of Standards, outline its functions, management, and control, and address related matters.	Entire Value chain	All players
Environmental Management and Coordination Act, cap 387, 2012	This law addresses environmental conservation and management in Kenya, including regulations related to land use planning, waste management, and pollution control. Farmers must comply with these regulations to mitigate environmental impacts from livestock farming.	Production, processing	Producers and processors

List of applicable regulations/rules governing Apiculture production in Kenya

Name of the Regulation	Description	Value chain Node	Target
Livestock (Bee industry) Regulations, 2023	Section II of the regulation outlines the requirements for fostering and advancing the bee industry, covering aspects like setting up apiaries, managing and overseeing operations, obtaining licenses, maintaining apiary standards, procuring equipment, operating honey refineries, handling bee products with hygiene in mind, ensuring quality, safety, and health standards, implementing fiscal controls, conducting research, and establishing contractual agreements.	Entire Value chain	All players

Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures (SPS) Regulations:	Kenya implements SPS measures to ensure the safety and quality of livestock and livestock products exported to other countries. Compliance with health and hygiene standards is essential for market access.	Entire chain	All players
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The sources of the policies and regulations

1. <http://kenyalaw.org/>
2. <https://kilimo.go.ke/>
3. Director of livestock production
4. Director of Veterinary services

Disclaimer: This inventory has the objective of creating awareness among stakeholders, particularly for beekeeping on existing policies and regulations. Detailed information on these policies and operationalization can be obtained from the relevant authorities as specified



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