

Project 'APENET: monitoring and research in apiculture'

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DOI: 10.5073/jka.2012.437.038

Abstract

APENET: monitoring and research in apiculture', is a two year research project funded in 2009 by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and completed in September 2011. The main objectives of APENET were:

to give explanation about the colony losses and high bee mortalities reported in the recent years in many countries;

to evaluate the efficacy of the recently introduced law, regarding the suspension of seed dressing, for mitigation of colony losses.

The project was structured in 7 research topics:

1: Monitoring honeybee state of health in Italy;

2: Improving the reduction of the dust dispersion during maize sowing;

3: Honeybees and agrochemicals;

4: The honeybee colony as a biosystem and its health: evaluation of the effects of the micro- and macro- environmental factors and their influence on pathogen development;

5: Evaluation of the synergic effect of different factors on honeybee health;

6: Honeybee pathologies;

7: Studies on the immune response of *Apis mellifera* and its modulation by means of biotic and abiotic stress.

Six universities and several other research institutions from all over Italy were involved. Collaboration of beekeeper organisations was also very important. The present contribution is aimed to expose the main results obtained during the APENET project.