Israel is uniquely suited to teach the fundamentals of bee-keeping. The history of bee-keeping in Israel may be traced to Biblical times. The Land of Israel is described in the Bible as "flowing with milk and honey". Honey is mentioned in the Bible and was always considered to be an essential ingredient in the diet which contributed greatly to health and strength.

The modern system of bee-keeping goes back half a century when early settlers used wooden hives. Since then, the techniques of the past have developed into the advanced practices of today. The bee most commonly kept today in Israel is the Italian bee, Apis mellifera L. Var. Ligustica Spin. At present, some 80,000 hives are kept by 800 bee-keepers located all over the country. The excellent yield of honey, its quality and the development of other new uses of the colonies, such as the pollination of crops, have been the result of a coordinated effort among the various governmental and private bodies in the fields of research, extension, marketing and promotion of the branch. A special improvement and experimental station has been established where advanced techniques of artificial insemination are being developed to improve the genetic quality of the colonies. Research into the invention of new mechanized tools for the rationalization of production methods is also being undertaken.

The Center for International Agricultural Development Cooperation (CINADCO) of Israel's Ministry of Agriculture organises an International Course on Bee-keeping and Extension for English speaking participants from
the developing countries of Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Mediterranean Basin and the Caribbean. The courses are given about once a year in the warm spring and summer months in Israel when beekeeping is at its height. They are given within the framework of assistance to the developing countries under the supervision of the Division for International Cooperation of Israel's Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and with the close cooperation of the Bee-keeping Division in the Ministry of Agriculture. Since 1978, six such courses have been held for 114 participants from the following 23 countries: Thailand, Cyprus, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Burma, Brazil, Barbados, Haiti, Nepal, Colombia, Uruguay, Peru, Argentina, Kenya, Swaziland, Turkey, Jamaica, Philippines, India, El Salvador, Portugal and Ghana. Candidates must be animal husbandry technicians or extension officers with a secondary or higher education, a background in bee-keeping and three years of practical experience in the field. They must have a good command of written and spoken English.

The course is intended to train the participant in modern methods of bee-keeping and to instruct him in ways to improve production through proper management, sanitation and production methods. In addition, the trainee will be taught effective methods for disseminating know-how to farmers through proper extension methods.

Studies are geared to lectures, discussions, exercises, laboratory work and field trips. There is a short period of practical training. During this period, the participants live in cooperative settlements, take an active part in all aspects of bee-keeping and work alongside local farmers. The course also includes the preparation of a final project.

The program of studies includes:

1. The Bee Colony
   Biology of Development
   Biology of Reproduction
   The Adult Bee Worker
   Elements of Behavior
   Communication in the Colony
2. Nutrition

3. Methods of Production
   Migration
   Honey Extraction
   Honey Processing
   Use of By-products

4. Sanitation
   Pests
   Diseases and their Prevention

5. Equipment
   Types of Hives
   Protective Equipment
   Processing Equipment

6. Organization and Management
   Economics of Production
   Apiary Management
   Marketing

7. Introduction to Methods of Research

8. Methods of Extension
   Principles of Extension
   The Lecture
   Visual Aids
   Group Demonstrations
   The Teaching of Skills

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Yeshayahu Stern
Director
Bee-keeping Division
Ministry of Agriculture
or
Extension Service
P.O.Box 7054
Tel Aviv, Israel 61070

The Director
Centre for International
Agricultural Development Cooperation
(CINADCO)
Ministry of Agriculture
P.O.Box 7054
Tel Aviv, Israel 61070