

A bee reserve for The Gambia

Derek Marin, Director of Programme Development, Sami Beekeeping Association

I wanted to say that our beekeeping association (and I) have progressed by leaps and bounds because of your Resource Box these past three years. I want to express how thankful we are that we had it during our developing period. The Sami Beekeeping Association has built Gambia's first 'Bee Reserve' and field station which is a result of our hard work and your education materials.



Trainee Mawdou Kali Ceesay with Derek Marin (right)

Our Education Centre is complete and we are finishing a couple of earth-made guest houses and breaking ground for our freshwater pump well and restroom facilities.

We are specialising in Holistic Planned Beekeeping in our training, working on triple bottom-line principles* to guide our operations and programmes. After my service with the US Peace Corps I am now Director of Programmes for the Association (mostly operating from the USA – fundraising and programme building).

We are planning a ribbon cutting event next dry season in celebration of Gambia's new government and the opening of our Bee Reserve Centre. I am also developing an internship programme with the university I attend for Environmental Management and hope to obtain university sponsorships to send interns to the bee reserve.



Value added products in production



Recipes in BfD Journal are used as guidance

