



STRENGTHENING RURAL RESILIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

## RUWAI BEEKEEPING PROJECT

[www.ruralwatchafrica.org](http://www.ruralwatchafrica.org)



**RUWAI**  
RURAL WATCH AFRICA  
INITIATIVE

# SUMMARY

The project trains and empowers 200 unemployed women and youth, providing employment, reducing poverty and ecological damage while enhancing agriculture in each benefiting community in Abia, Imo, Sokoto and FCT. The project's primary aim is to improve the economic condition of the rural youth through beekeeping as a natural-based resource for climate action and rural resilience. During the training period, beneficiaries will learn the essential beekeeping tools such as Bee Hive Components, Honey Production, Packaging/Honey processing, Marketing, Money Management and agroforestry.



# Our Story

The Rural Watch Africa Initiative (RUWAI) is a nonprofit organization working with deprived rural people to build their resilience and achieve socio-economic growth by restoring degraded ecosystems, poverty eradication and women/youth empowerment programs. We are focusing on climate solutions that can equip indigenous people to eliminate under-nourishment, poverty and emissions. Since 2016, we have continued to focus on regenerative economic outcomes that create employment, facilitate transportation, resist pollution, enhance well-being, eradicate poverty, restore land for over 20 000 people in more than 15 communities in Africa.

## Our Team



**Uche Isieke**

Executive Director



**Tobias Ukeh**

Project Cordinator



**uchenna Akujo**

Entrepreneurship Specialist



**Elizabeth Ntah**

Gender and Youth Engagement



# BEEKEEPING PROJECT

The increasing degradation of natural resources and unsustainable land practices drive ecological conflicts leading to migration, poverty and unemployment among many rural dwellers, primarily women and youth. The recently released "2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria" report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) highlights that 40 per cent of the total population, or almost 83 million people, live below the country's poverty line of 137,430 naira (\$381.75) per year.

Most government programs are ad-hoc, thus not recognizing the prevalent issues facing many rural women and youths. This project phase will train and equip additional 200 youth in the selected communities, reduce conflicts, food insecurity, poverty, produce jobs and prevent biodiversity depletion, especially bee population, through sustainable beekeeping and agroforestry.

# SOLUTIONS



RUWAI provides alternative livelihood skills through learning the various Bee Hive Components, Honey Production, Packaging/Honey processing, Marketing, Money Management.



At the end of the training, we are providing beneficiaries with bee making equipment, seedlings, the strategy of marketing and guidance to start and run their own profitable beekeeping business.



Beneficiaries will pay a given percentage through a cooperative, enabling others to benefit in the next phase.



## SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

The project will help 200 beneficiaries start their beekeeping businesses, generate income, achieve food security and enhance climate resilience. Additional 200 people will have employment by working with them, and many indirect jobs created in the community. These women and youth will no longer be counted among the 21.7 million unemployed Nigerians and 83 million people who live below the country's poverty line of 137,430 naira (\$381.75) per year.

Using beekeeping as an alternative source of income for rural people will bring a measurable reduction in poverty and crime among youth and increase food production while reducing pressures on land-based natural resources.

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The primary beneficiaries of the project are the youth between 18-45 years of age, in the Idima Abam community, in Abia state. Beneficiaries will provide land to keep the beehives which will help them take charge of their project. Agreement between RUWAI and the association will be developed and signed by both parties, and beneficiaries will commit themselves to give 10% of their first investment used to sustain project running costs to help train others. We are establishing a forum of bee farmers for future decision making for the betterment of the project. Through this forum, other young people will be trained and empowered. Each beneficiary is to plant fruit trees and crops within the bees farm to generate additional income.





Beekeeping or Apiculture is the science of keeping bees to tap natural pure honey and other honeybee byproducts like beeswax, propolis, bee-venom, mead, royal jelly, etc., for different industrial, medicinal, pharmaceutical and nutritional purposes.

Beekeeping thrives in regions with moderate forestation/vegetation and less humidity. Bee colonies could be attracted around the year but with a rapid peak from June ending to early September. This period is a time bee colonies split naturally to start a new colony.





## IMPACT STORIES FROM COMMUNITIES





# BUILD RESILIENCE

Endurable livelihoods are required for the economic growth and development of rural populations. For livelihoods to be sustainable, there is a need for human, social, economic, financial, physical, and natural capital to be implemented for fruitful outcomes.

Securing a rich and robust rural economy for the vulnerable, particularly the women and smallholder farmers, is a critical component of our program.

One such is beekeeping as a veritable tool for empowering local women and youth and small scale farmers to produce food, restore and manage land, create alternative incomes and eradicate the prevailing poverty and hunger among rural areas.

Since 2018, we have trained and empowered 450 rural farmers in 6 local governments in two states of Nigeria.

This number includes youth, women and men between the ages of 18 to 55, with smallholder farmers measuring about 68 per cent of beneficiaries. Through our mentorship program, these people can access information and the help they need to grow. They are connected with major suppliers and buyers to ensure return on investment.

