



SWEET AS HONEY:

A Project that Benefits Both Farmers and the Environment



Supporting farmers with alternative sources of income in remote areas where there are no established markets, infrastructure or value chains is a challenge. Mozambique Leaf Tobacco Company (MLT) has partnered with the local company Agri-Mel to launch a beekeeping pilot project in Zambezia.

Working with Agri-Mel and other organizations, this two-fold project aims to increase farmers' income and to protect life on land, particularly by promoting the implementation of sustainable forest management.

The focus of the project is to provide tobacco growers with a supplementary income, but at the same time farmers learn how to protect and maintain natural resources by ensuring an environment which makes bees and other pollinators thrive.



Hives installed by a team of farmers and MLT employees in the Communal Forestry of Gurué, and Agri-Mel has provided the equipment and the know-how.

This project was set up in eucalyptus forests previously planted by MLT as a source of sustainable wood for tobacco farmers: this tree is a good nectar source for honey and putting beehives in the forest compartments ensures these are properly managed, kept always clean which, in turn, helps substantially with maintaining firebreaks and preventing the spreading of accidental fires.

Farmers included in the project had a good uptake and two of them have already harvested their honey, which is then sold to Agri-Mel for processing. Others will harvest later in 2020 and MLT plans to further roll out this project to incorporate more MLT growers in Zambezia and Tete Province.

