PROFITABILITY OF APICULTURE IN FINLAND

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Background

In 2013, the Statistical services of Natural Resources Institute Finland and Finnish Beekeepers' association (SML) in co-operation began to collect information on beekeeping for profitability calculations. For two years these calculations have been a part of the European farm accountancy data network (FADN).

Materials and methods

The production and financial data of the bee farm are collected annually from the participating beekeepers. Data collected includes data of revenues, expenditure, number of hives, honey yield, working hours in apiculture, etc. The results are presented as unweighted arithmetic mean results, and they can be viewed on Luke's Doctor of Economics website in the unit cost services of Honey Production (taloustohtori.luke.fi/en/unit-costs-of-beekeeping). All participants get a report of their data.

Fig. 1. Beekeeping's income includes honey and other products of the beehive, e.g. beeswax, pollination service and breeding and sale of queen bees. *Photo: T. Ollikka, SML*

Results

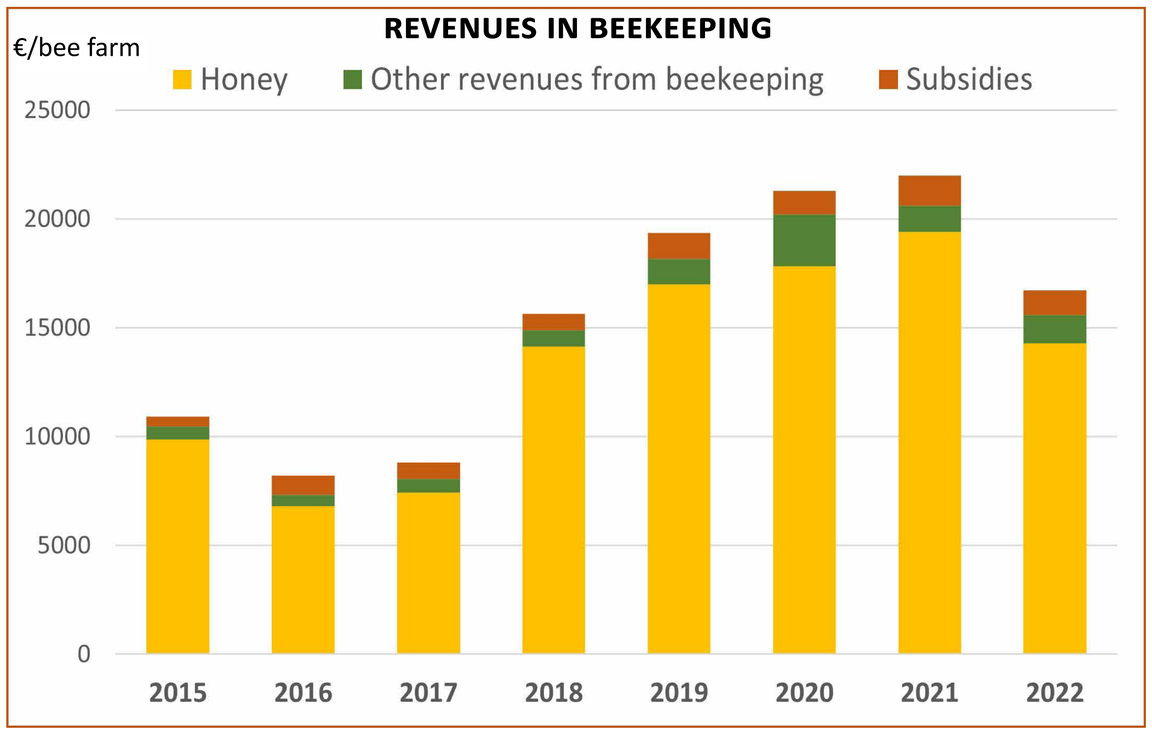

Fig. 2. Annual revenues in beekeeping farms from 2015 to 2022

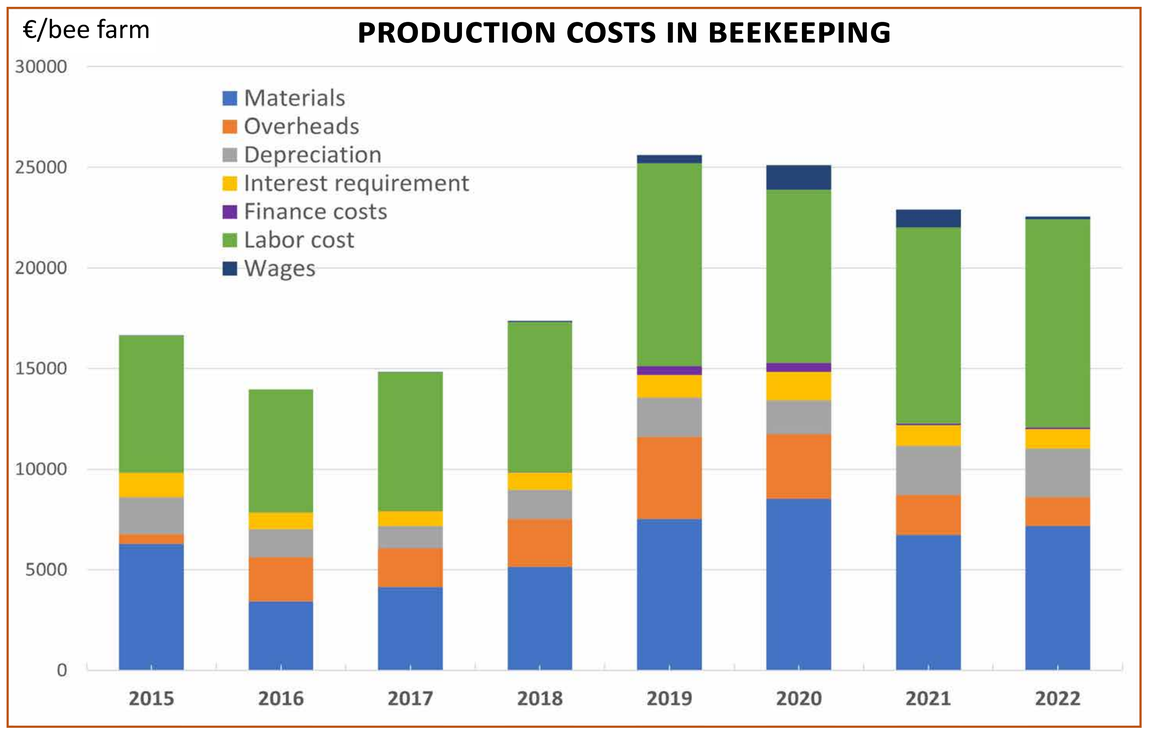

Fig. 3. Annual production costs in beekeeping farms from 2013 to 2022

- The results can be viewed with two different hive size classifications, at the level of the whole country and by region with the AB and C support region division. The results of organic honey production and conventional honey production can also be compared
- Every year most of the revenues for beekeepeing comes from honey sale (Fig.2). Other revenues from beekeeping form a minor share of the revenues in bee farms. In addition, when compared with other fields of argiculture, the share of subsidies is low. Share of subsidies to revenues was in apiculture 6 % and in agriculture 27 %.
- Most of the production costs consist of materials and the labor costs of the beekeeper (Fig.3). As the number of farms participating in this profitability calculations have varied during period 2013-2022 the annual variation in production costs have been great.
- As an example in 2022, the profitability ratio of beekeeping was 0.54. Correspondingly, the average profitability ratio for agriculture was 0.90 and for sheep farms 0.72. In the southern AB support area A beekeeper incurred costs of 10.66 euros for producing one kilo of honey, and 12.34 euros in the more northerly C support area. Revenues the AB support area were 9.2 euros per kilo of honey and the profitability ratio was 0.68. In the C support area, the revenues was 8.0 euros and the profitability ratio was 0.32.

Conclusions

In 2024 data from 15 bee farms will be collected. All farms have more than 15 beehives.

Finland is the only country in Europe that has published profitability calculations for beekeeping in the FADN database. The farm accountancy data network (FADN) monitors farms' revenues and business activities. It is also an important informative source for understanding the impact of the measures taken under the common agricultural policy. Beekeeping calculations are found in: taloustohtori.luke.fi/en/beekeeping

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