

Promotion of and education in the conservation of the native Irish Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*)

The recently established NIHBS (Native Irish Honeybee Association) held a number of workshops throughout the Provinces as a first step to aid in the conservation of the Native Irish Honeybee. The purpose of the workshops was to educate Irish beekeepers in the importance of the native Irish honeybee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) and the detrimental effect of bee imports on populations. In addition, the workshops aimed to educate beekeepers on how to effectively breed, rear and propagate the native Irish honeybee. Workshops were held in the following locations

1. Na Déise
2. Conamara
3. Tullamore
4. South Tipperary
5. Cavan

Beekeepers young and old were introduced to queen rearing techniques and new technology/methods for those who are currently queen rearing. While the basic principles were understood during the events, further training is required to develop skills for local members to ensure that they can breed and deliver *Apis mellifera mellifera* (AMM) queens to meet local and national demands. NIHBS must also develop train the trainer certification in practical beekeeping. NIHBS intend to increase the number of events for 2014 and develop a training plan as part of the organisation strategy for 2014 – 2018

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