

# **Honey harvesting and processing**

Bees have a lot of benefits to man among which is producing honey and this can be processed locally.

Before setting off to go harvesting honey, the bee keeper must be prepared with equipments which include; Bee suit, hat and veil, gloves, gum boots, clean bucket with lid, smoker, knife and match box. For a good and successful honey harvesting exercise, wear your protective clothing and ensure that you are adequately protected.

## **Collecting honey combs**

Pack your smoker with adequate fuel, enough for the entire process. During harvesting, blow smoke around the hive and finally at the entrance. Bees around the entrance will run into the hive.

Wait for a while and gently open the roof of the hive. Blow some smoke over the top bars to make sure the bees on top enter the hive.

Identify the empty side by using a knife to knock on the top bars. Empty combs make the loudest noise. Cut out the mature combs into your plastic container beginning with the empty side.

Clean the top bars and rearrange them as before .

## **Honey extraction**

A clean dry basket and a clean dry bucket are needed in processing honey hygienically. Break the combs into small pieces and put it in a clean plastic sieve covered with a clean cloth over a clean plastic bucket.

Cover and seal the container to make it air tight with its cover.