Introducing a bee swarm to a Kenyan Top Bar Hive

Prepare the beehive: Make sure the new beehive is clean and ready to accommodate the swarm. Remove any debris or old honeycomb from the hive. To Introduce a honeycomb, provide the bees with a familiar scent, and place an old honeycomb inside the hive. This will help the bees recognize the hive as a suitable home.
While handling the bees, before working with the bees, it is advisable, especially for those new to beekeeping, to wear a bee suit for protection. This will minimize the risk of stings and ensure your safety.

When transferring the bees, gently pour the bees into the hive. The bees are generally docile when they are in a swarm because they are young and not yet protecting anything. This makes it easier to handle them during this process.

Attracting Bees

To attract the bees: After the bees are inside the hive, they will begin depositing pheromones in the hive’s openings. These pheromones act as signals to attract any remaining bees that are still outside the hive. This helps ensure that the entire swarm gathers in the hive.

When placing the Queen: It is crucial to ensure that the queen bee is inside the hive. The presence of the queen is vital for the colony’s stability and growth. Carefully inspect the swarm before transferring it to the hive to confirm that the queen is present.

Close the hive once the bees have settled inside, close it carefully to prevent any bees from escaping. Take care not to harm the bees during this process, as they are valuable to the colony’s success.