



■ Bee-keeping as a chance for orphans **Key for a better future**

It is break time at the Mully Children Family home orphanage (MCF), where children are attending a workshop on beekeeping. Bernard Muasya Kiiro, one of 35 members of the bee club, finds a shady spot near the river to talk to us. "I was nine years old when my father died. My mother and my six siblings were left. She was pregnant and quite sick. It grew worse and worse." Bernard lowers his eyes and searches for words: "I left school then and I and my siblings went on the street". He stops. He continues in

a barely audible way, from which only the odd words, like 'drugs' and 'police' can be understood. Finally his voice fails him, he hides his face behind his hands.

Bernard is one of 550 orphans who have found shelter in the MCF home, Ndalani, 120 km north of Nairobi. Most of the boys and girls are like Bernard, down and out children, who have survived in the most appalling circumstances, living in gangs and earning money by drugs, prostitution and stealing.

Honey As An All Round Prophylactic

Charles Mully, a business man from Nairobi, founded the orphanage next to the big house at Ndalani which has a large farm. In addition, Mully has built a centre for 120 young women, and one for 85 children in Eldoret. Searching for a way to provide an income for the orphanage, he hit on the idea of MCF producing honey to sell. This plan was much welcomed by Brigitte Nyambo, the BioVison coordinator in Nairobi. She saw its

main value in terms of health promotion, but also as the basis for an economically viable future. The BioVison coordinator says: "When they leave the home as young adults, they will have a training in modern beekeeping, which will give them a chance for their future".

Starting the Project

A craftsman at MCF was trained to build modern beehives, and a teacher from the Agriculture and Biology Department at MCF was trained in modern beekeeping. Together with BioVison he developed teaching materials and tried them out with his students. Posters and cartoons were developed and printed for distribution throughout Kenya.

When break time at the Beekeeping Club is over, the members get busy again with the care of their bees. Bernard Muasya Kiiro (pictured above, third from the left) has regained his composure. Proudly he demonstrates how modern beehives are put toge-

Continued on side 2



Editorial



“Mother give honey to your child”, is a wise saying in Africa. And in Africa honey is regarded as more than just a delicious spread. Dissolved in tea it is the poor people’s medicine. However, although it does not cure many illnesses, it is still an important all round aid to health. There is a great demand for honey. An African honey producer can make his/her living without owning land, an oxen or seeds. For landless farmers and people living in dry areas this provides a real chance.

In Africa, beekeepers traditionally evict the bees with smoke. These useful insects often die in the fire, the honey tastes of smoke and the fire causes terrible damage.

All this can be helped by gentle modernisation. BioVision promotes modern beekeeping with an environmentally friendly and sustainable use of natural resources. This enables income generation, enabling the survival of a destitute rural population.

Many thanks for your support!

*Dr. Hans Rudolf Herren
President of BioVision*

‘Smoker’ and protective clothing for protection against the open fires. Modern beekeeping reduces the risk of bush fires

Continued from side 1

ther. Bernard would very much like to become a doctor, however even as a professional bee keeper he will still be able to earn his living.

BioVision Project No. 5207-01

The traditional way to gather honey is to evict the bees from the hives by smoking them out. This often results in devastating fires. This happened in Agamsa, Ethiopia, where nearly a whole village was burned down last March.



Beekeeping Gently Modernised

The traditional beehive in Africa is a hollowed out trunk, where the bees build their honeycombs. The honey from these combs contains little honey but a lot of wax and dead grubs all mixed together. To harvest the honey, the bees are traditionally chased away by smoke. This often kills the bees and starts bush fires. The honey also tastes of smoke.

BioVision promotes a gentler way of beekeeping and better honey production. Local craftsmen build wooden hives called ‘Langstroth Hives’. These contain wooden frames with wire netting stretched over them. The bees build their combs on the frames. To harvest the honey the frames are taken out and spun in a centrifuge. They can then be reinserted into the hives. The bees are not disturbed, the income from the honey is considerably increased, and the quality of the honey is improved.

*BioVision Project No. 5206-01
5206-02
5206-03
5207-01*



■ A day in the life of
16-year-old Geoffrey Macharia
Mully Children's Home, Ndalani, Kenya

“As soon as the bell rings at 5.00 am, I eagerly get out of bed and take a shower. I look forward to a new day of hard work. I want to use of my opportunity in the orphanage where I live, as I want to improve my life. My role models are the 22 students in my orphanage who have been admitted to university. My dream is to one day become an Agronomist. After dressing myself, I hurry to the school building. At 5.15 am I start with my prep studies. The early mornings are normally cool and the day light bright enough to study. At 6.45 am I have my breakfast and by

7.00 pm., I complete all the necessary housework such as cleaning the dishes and the toilets. At the moment, my task is to mop our dormitories. I share the dormitories with 18 other boys who are more or less the same age as me. Each of us have a tin box-like suitcase where we put in our personal stuff. We usually place our tin boxes next to the double -decker beds. I am one of the lucky ones as I have my own bed and do not have to share it with anyone.

Before I came here, I lived with my family in Eldoret. My father was an alcoholic and whenever he was drunk he would beat us. We often took refuge at our neighbours` house. My parents divorced. Three of my brothers stayed behind with my father but they soon found themselves on the streets. My two sisters and I went to live with my mother. One day however, my mother had a bad bus accident. Many people lost their lives. My mum survived but with serious injuries and had to be hospitalised. We then went to live with our grandmother who unfortunately died shortly thereafter. I too found myself on the streets. I got into bad company and was often drunk and did bad things. One day, I was hit by a car and was brought here to Mully Children's Family Home. I was given a bath and taken good care of. I was given food, clean clothes, a roof over my head and I felt loved. I am now moving forward in my life. I would like to help my mother and my siblings who still live in Eldoret.

Our school lessons begin at 7.30 am and go on until 1.00 pm After a short lunch break, we go back to school until 4.00 pm. My favourite subjects are Biology, Geography, Physics and Chemistry. My hobby is gardening and I plant fruits and vegetables. I am also a member of the Bee Club which I joined one year ago. Being a member of this club gives me perspective in my life. Perhaps, I could one day produce honey and sell it to earn some money. In anycase, I am prepared to make use of any chance that comes my way in order to be a worthy Kenyan.

At 5.30 pm, we have our dinner. We attend prayers together. When we have electricity, we usually go to the class rooms for our prep studies. At 9.30 pm, I go to bed and fall asleep immediately. Every night I have the same dream - that I am someone important and that I have a job which is useful and is helpful to other people.”

by Peter Lüthi

■ Nighthlights from Africa
Beeswax: Making use of rather than throwing the wax away.

Beeswax is of little use in Africa because it goes soft in the heat. BioVision, together with TERRA VERDA Biogourmet AG, in Kenya is now manufacturing nightlights from beeswax for export to Switzerland. This gives an additional income to the farmers.

The sets can be bought in Swiss Claro-shops or ordered from Terre Verde for CHF 8.80 or online at www.terraverde.tv
 tel: 044 342 10 00



■ Female Students Support BioVision
Killing two birds with one stone

“Eat and do good” is the slogan under which students of the ETH Zurich cooked for their colleges on the 18th of May. The event was successful. They sold 800 lunches for a clear profit of CHF 3,400. “We are happy to give the money to the project for Tsetse control in East Africa”, said the joint initiator Rahel Kilchsperger (middle) from Globo Verde.

The farmers at the Tsetse control project thank their sponsors because now they will be able to catch many more tsetse flies...





BioVision Coordinator visits Europe From tropical heat to snow storms

In October 2004 the FAO and the German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) held a workshop in Bozen for the official transfer of knowledge between agricultural researchers and farmers. Dr. Brigitte Nyambo, BioVision coordinator in Nairobi, attended. BioVision had taken the opportunity to invite Dr. Nyambo to Zurich to give a lecture on world nutrition. She also had time for a visit to Appenzell, where she visited a cheese factory. And she went by cable car to cloud-covered Saentis. Taking the great difference in temperature in her stride, she said: "Let us wrap up this beautiful white stuff and take it to Kenya where the people suffer from heat and lack of water".

BioVision-Symposium in Zurich Ways out of the poverty trap

On the October 17th around 360 people attended the Symposium at ETH. The lectures were given by Dr. Brigitte Nyambo (BioVision coordinator Nairobi), Dr. Hans Rudolf Herren (the Foundation's President and Director of ICIPE Nairobi), Walter Fust (Director of DEZA), Dr. Mark Herkenrath (Sociological Institute of Zurich University) and Prof. Dr. Peter Rieder (ETH Zurich).

The lectures and discussions showed how sustainable development in the Third World is hindered by the huge subsidy of 350 billion USD to agriculture in industrial countries. And is made worse by the protectionist trade rules of the WTO. Conditions in Africa are not helped by difficult weather conditions, heterogeneous communities resulting from colonisation, and widespread corruption. DEZA Director W. Fust made the point that the rich North is not innocent of corruption in Africa and added: "It takes two to tango. One who takes and also one who gives".

In spite of the difficulties, those attending agreed that development cooperation here and in Africa must take place and that BioVision with its concrete projects gives urgently needed assistance to self-help enterprises.

Symposium Summary
www.biovision.ch, german: *veranstaltungen archiv*



BIOVISION

Am Wasser 55, CH-8049 Zürich
phone +41 44 341 97 18,
info@biovision.ch
www.biovision.ch



Thank you for your help!

PC-Account 87-408333-2

Thanks to your support BioVision can assist self-help projects. With the gentle modernisation of beekeeping people are now able to help themselves!
Dr. Hans Rudolf Herren



Orphans in the Mully Children's Family home coming back from their chores.