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PRESS RELEASE

Mexican Bee Cooperative Trains Belizean Honey Producers

Belmopan, November 8, 2023.

The Cooperative Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, in collaboration with a Mexican bee cooperative, is currently hosting a three-day workshop on the manufacturing and processing of honey by-products in Central Farm. The workshop, which started on November 7, is a significant step towards enhancing the value of honey products and creating new opportunities in the honey industry.

The training is being conducted by Sociedad Cooperativa Melitzaak, a cooperative based in Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Quintana Roo. The cooperative is known for its expertise in producing cosmetic and food products derived from honey and beehive resources, including pollen, royal jelly, and propolis.

Recognizing the importance of honey production as a cornerstone of the agricultural sector, in collaboration with local honey producers, the ministry identified the need to add value to honey products, fostering increased income generation and job opportunities for the community, with a particular emphasis on women and youth.

During the workshop, participants will learn the art of crafting honey-based soap using high-quality ingredients such as honey, coconut oil, and aloe vera, which are beneficial for the skin and add value to honey products. Attendees will also learn how to prepare nutritious and essential food supplements for bees, create healing ointments using natural bee products, and create an effective insect repellent using neem, honey, and beeswax. They will also acquire the knowledge to make nutritious honey granola infused with dehydrated fruits and seeds, confectionery gummies infused with propolis, and product packaging.

Embracing the potential of honey by-products encourages the sector's economic growth and provides valuable employment opportunities. Therefore, this workshop is an exciting opportunity for diversification of the honey industry, enhances the international ties of brotherhood and friendship between Mexico and Belize, and illustrates how regional cooperation can benefit partner countries.

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