On 2nd March 2020, ICAR-NRC Litchi, Muzaffarpur had organized a 30 days training programme on Skill Development Training Programme Job role “Beekeeper” under the aegis of Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI), Gurugram, Haryana. The training was scheduled from 2nd March - 31st March 2020 to cover a total duration of 200 hours for both theory and practical classes. This training was aimed at enhancing the awareness among trainees about beekeeping, pollination services offered by honeybees and their economic product. During this training, 23 male and 5 female trainees including unemployed youth and college pass outs from different parts of Muzaffarpur participated. While addressing to the trainees, Dr. Vishal Nath, Director talked about importance and scope of beekeeping as a subsidiary occupation. He also deliberated on economics and marketing of beekeeping. During this training, trainees were sensitized about various aspects of beekeeping including honey bee species, colony organization, division of labour and life cycle of honey bees, queen bee rearing, maintenance of the beehives, beekeeping accessories and live bee colonies. Preliminary information on how to start beekeeping, management of beehives during dearth periods, the economics of beekeeping, bee products and role of bees in crop pollination was imparted to the trainees by experts of the institute. Owing to unfortunate COVID-19 pandemic, the program was halted for a week and will resume once normal situation prevails. In the meanwhile, the study material and important informations are being updated to the trainees through whatsapp group created specifically for Beekeeper trainees.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Senior Scientist, Dr E.S. Marboh, Scientist and Dr. Alok Kumar Gupta coordinated this training programme under the guidance of PME Cell Chairman, Dr. S D Pandey and Director, Dr. Vishal Nath.