

## PREPARING OURSELVES FOR ADAPTATION TO CHANGE

The project is carried out in close collaboration with the current government of the municipality of Dzemul. Both the municipal president and the president of the DIF have been actively working on various government initiatives, which are among the objectives of the municipality in relation to adapting to change. The protected area will support the local government body in all those projects where we are required and also open other opportunities to implement 8 training workshops scheduled over the next two years, aimed at community focus groups. All will be associated with the production of supplies, furniture and other products, manufactured with environmentally friendly techniques and that can, in addition to being a contribution to their family economy, contribute to the balance of the natural environment that surrounds them.

The first training after the end of the "Stay at home" campaign due to COVID, was successfully completed. A shared effort between, the Secretary for Women, the management of DINOSUSA ABARROTES, and the Private Protected Natural Area, has made it possible for the first theme selected for a nature-friendly productive project, called: **"Rescue and breeding of the Sacred Mayan Bee without affecting the wild bee colonies,"** has fully met its objectives, by training a group of 6 women from the community who form a production cooperative.

Why raise Melipona bees?

Because they are an essential part of the forests and contribute to the reproduction of cultivated and wild plants typical of the low deciduous forest; they are domesticable and not dangerous. These bees produce excellent medicinal honey that relieves disorders in the digestive system; problems in the circulatory system; it is ideal for the respiratory system (especially if you have a cough or sore throat); It helps boost the immune system, calm fevers, insect bites, clinically proven eye ailments from the honey of one of the species, and reduce skin blemishes, among other benefits.

To achieve this objective, six theoretical-practical classes were taught by an excellent specialist, with the contribution of DUNOSUSA, in addition to which, 4 colonies of bees of the species (*Melipona beecheii*; *Escaptotrigrona pectoralis* and *Friseomielitt nigra*) were donated along with the boxes to start the reproduction, as well as those that would be used in the first division, provided by this socially responsible company. By decision of a group of women within the trained group, these four colonies remain within the Protected Area "Komchén de Los Pájaros" where they find abundant food for their healthy growth and division, but they in turn benefit the forest with their pollination job. Pollinator. The local women ladies tend to them by rotating one day each and the product and sub-products produced benefit the cooperative.

The protected area built and conditioned an enclosure for the production of honey, provided some supplies for the manufacture of by-products and also promotes the

products they make giving them the opportunity to sell with great success, to the ecotourism groups that visit the PA and also, to the participants to the courses for biologists that are imparted in the facilities. The municipality provided the fuel and transportation for the collection of the ladies to attend workshops and provided space for the theoretical classes.

This women's cooperative learned not only to successfully manage three species of these stingless bees (Meliponas) and to extract their excellent and medicinal honey, propolis in the most careful and septic way for medicinal purposes, but also to manufacture soaps (exfoliating and moisturizing), moisturizing shampoo for hair loss and, body creams, natural wax candles, among other products based on Apis honey. An emotional closing of the workshop and delivery of the Diploma took place in the Protected Area, accompanied by directors of Dunosusa, officials of the Women's Secretariat, the president of the DIF and the Municipal President of Dzemul.



Ing. Vicente Manager of Environmental Management and Social Responsibility, Grocery Dunosusa



Mario Rodrigo Navarro Meneses, Workshop teacher delivers diploma.



Representatives of the Mérida Secretariat and the Municipal President. Ladies who received diplomas.



First Products



The closing ceremony was in charge of the Municipal President, Wilberto Flota Aké, and Diana López Franco, president of the Municipal DIF and the Director of the PA Dr. Xiomara Gálvez Aguilera.

*Other workshops that are scheduled to start during the next two years are:*

- 1- Dzemul rubber tire furniture: a group of young people not affiliated with studies will be trained in the construction of garden furniture from recycled tires and wooden pallets.*
- 2- Incorporate a group of at least 3 people, into the governmental program of young entrepreneurs of the government, to train them as park rangers and hiking tour guides.*
- 3- Workshop for the production of vegetables in urban gardens*
- 4- Production of useful household items from recycled plastic and glass*
- 5- Planting of two tubers, to produce homemade tortillas without corn as base flour, as an adaptation alternative.*
- 6- Training in the production, conservation, packaging, and selling of local plants for different uses, (medicinal, repellents, rooters, pest control, and fertilizers)*

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*The details: a message to*

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*Your time is also very valuable!*

- Be a teacher if you have the skills to teach in any of the proposed workshops.*
- Donate necessary supplies for each workshop*
- Support in the purchase of some equipment such as (glass cutters, carpentry tools, paints, and fabrics, among others).*
- Allocate a percentage of a product or service of your company in favor of materials and supplies to support the different workshops for the target groups, in the area of influence of the Protected Area in Dzemul.*

*Contact us during office hours: at (52) 9992912018*

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