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BPRACTICES

“NEW INDICATORS AND ON-FARM PRACTICES TO
IMPROVE HONEYBEE HEALTH IN THE AETHINA
TUMIDA ERA IN EUROPE”

Dr. Giovanni Formato

1ST SusAn COFUNDED Projects Seminar
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EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA ON SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL PRODUCTION



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Index

- Challenge
- Goal/ Objective
- Consortium
- Potential impact
- Preliminary results
- Stakeholders and expectations





Challenge



The **beekeeping sector** needs to find its way into sustainability and resilience in order to adapt to the present and future challenges

(climatic changes, diseases spread, loss in biodiversity, pollution, etc.)

The current needs of apiculture include:

- improvement in **competitiveness** and **resilience**
- **productivity** and **health status** enhancement
- **environmental sustainability** and **consumer acceptability**





Goal/Objective



- **Enhance honey bee health status in EU by implementing and adopting harmonized Good Beekeeping Practices (GBPs) within Partner Countries and beekeepers' Associations**
- **Provide guidelines on low environmental impact treatments to prevent and control honeybee diseases**
- **Set up innovative laboratory methods to prevent and diagnose honey bee diseases, with the collaboration of the European Union Reference Laboratory for Bee Health (ANSES)**
- **Set up an innovative traceability system**





Consortium

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e della Toscana



University of Namik Kemal



Agricultural Institute of Slovenia



Centro de Investigación Apícola y Agroambiental de Marchamalo



Austrian Agency for Health & Food Safety



Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie





Collaborations

University of Genova



Mississippi State University



European Union Reference Laboratory for Bee Health (ANSES)



International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (Apimondia)



FAO (TECA Beekeeping Exchange Group)



TECA



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Potential impact



- The **new management practices, together with the innovative diagnostic techniques** will impact the whole beekeeping sector, **enhancing honey bee health**, reducing the application of chemicals at the apiary level, **increasing quality and quantity of bee products**
- The sustainable production system, will impact the consumers **through an innovative informative technology (QRCode/RFID system)** that will allow them to know all the production details describing quality of bee products (and enhance consumers' trust)





Preliminary results

So far, a list of GBPs has been identified and scored by Partners, in collaboration with Apimondia

Through the collaboration with the FAO TECA platform, a survey will be distributed online to beekeepers to verify GBPs' feasibility and applicability at the apiary level in their everyday practice

General GBPs

Question	Average Response Score	EU Mandatory
Use only veterinary medicines for honey bees registered in your country or medicines legally imported	4	yes
Ensure that all treatments or procedures are carried out correctly as described in the instructions (respecting dosage and method of application)	4	yes
Do not carry out antibiotic illegal treatments	4	yes
Use only pharmacological products registered for beekeeping use following the use instructions and register the treatments	4	yes
In case of notifiable diseases follow the instructions of the veterinary law and authorities	4	yes
Register and identify the treated hives	4	yes
In case of infectious diseases clean all beekeeping material between uses (e.g. hive bodies, hive bottom boards, feeders, hive tools)	4	
Clean or disinfect (in case of infectious diseases) the hive box before installing new colonies	4	
Do not feed the bees with honey or pollen or supplements, unless the absence of pathogens (spores of AFB, chalkbrood, nosema, EFB, etc.) is certified	3,957143	
For nuclei use bees and brood combs from healthy colonies only (negatively inspected for bee diseases)	3,857143	



- Two posters and an oral presentation on BPRACTICES project have been presented to the 2017 Apimondia Congress in Istanbul (Turkey) and other publications are in progress ...



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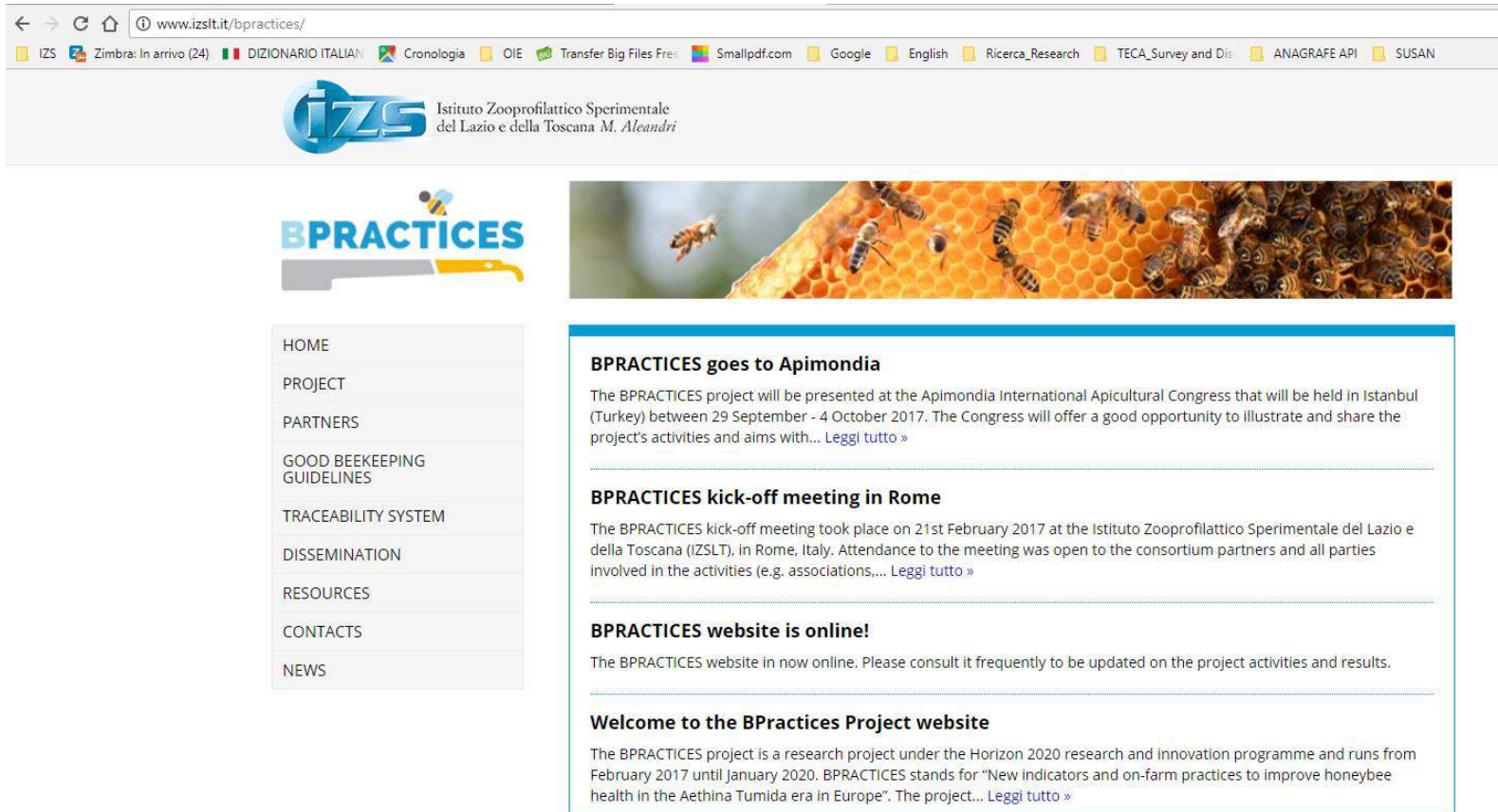
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Keywords: Bee health, preclinic indicators, beehive matrices

Preclinic indicators, as essential part of the Good Beekeeping Practices (GBP), allow to diagnose bee diseases before symptoms appear. Therefore, chemical treatments can be reduced in order to avoid the risk of residues in the honeybee products. BPRACTICES is a project funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement n° 696231, ERA-Net SusAn – European Research Area on Sustainable Animal Production Systems, that aims to **develop a sustainable beekeeping breeding system by implementing innovative management practices (Good Beekeeping Practices - GBPs).**



The project website is online and available at: <http://www.izslt.it/bpractices/>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.izslt.it/bpractices/. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. The website header features the IZS logo (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e della Toscana M. Aleandri) and the BPRACTICES logo, which includes a stylized bee and the text "BPRACTICES". A large image of bees on a honeycomb is displayed below the logos. On the left side, there is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: HOME, PROJECT, PARTNERS, GOOD BEEKEEPING GUIDELINES, TRACEABILITY SYSTEM, DISSEMINATION, RESOURCES, CONTACTS, and NEWS. The main content area on the right contains three news items, each with a title and a short paragraph followed by a "Leggi tutto" link:

- BPRACTICES goes to Apimondia**
The BPRACTICES project will be presented at the Apimondia International Apicultural Congress that will be held in Istanbul (Turkey) between 29 September - 4 October 2017. The Congress will offer a good opportunity to illustrate and share the project's activities and aims with... [Leggi tutto](#) »
- BPRACTICES kick-off meeting in Rome**
The BPRACTICES kick-off meeting took place on 21st February 2017 at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e della Toscana (IZSLT), in Rome, Italy. Attendance to the meeting was open to the consortium partners and all parties involved in the activities (e.g. associations,... [Leggi tutto](#) »
- BPRACTICES website is online!**
The BPRACTICES website is now online. Please consult it frequently to be updated on the project activities and results.

Below these items is a section titled "Welcome to the BPractices Project website" with the following text: "The BPRACTICES project is a research project under the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and runs from February 2017 until January 2020. BPRACTICES stands for "New indicators and on-farm practices to improve honeybee health in the Aethina Tumida era in Europe". The project... [Leggi tutto](#) »"



The BPRACTICES project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement n° 696231, ERA-Net SusAn - European Research Area on Sustainable Animal Production Systems Private Area



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Stakeholders and expectations

- International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (Apimondia)
- European Beekeepers
- COPA-COGECA



To increase honey bee health

To increase quantity and quality of productions.

To enhance consumers' trust.



Thanks for your kind attention

<http://www.izslt.it/bpractices/>



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