

## SOCIAL INNOVATION AND RESEARCH GRANT SCHEME

### PROJECT SUMMARY

**Principal Investigator Name:**

Ms Madvee Muthu

**Team Member (s) Name:**

TBD – Research Assistant

TBD – 2 Operations Officer

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**The information on this form may be made public.**

**Institution/Company:**

T.i.A Bee Products Ltd.

Ferney Ltd.

**Project Title:**

**'BEES WITH STORIES': Beekeeping for the promotion of biodiversity conservation and in support of vulnerable groups**

**TECHNICAL ABSTRACT**

The project sets out to better understand the apiculture sector in Mauritius with a view to learn how to commercialize beekeeping and make it an economically viable and a worthy investment for vulnerable groups while, at the same time, promoting an activity with direct impact on biodiversity conservation.

Unlike other African countries, Mauritius is no longer a predominantly agrarian economy and beekeeping is not a traditional practice for Mauritians. Beneficiaries will receive beekeeping training and be paid a daily wage for their time spent managing our hives.

Our beneficiaries will come from marginalized and underserved communities, with a preference given to registered National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) social aid recipients and women. Beekeeping at the scale of this project will be a part-time activity. Beneficiaries will be required to work an average of 4 days a month, resulting in a payment more than the monthly social security allowance given to social aid recipients.

Strengthening the apiculture value chain and producing quality bee products in Mauritius will require several interventions, including professional beekeeping training, continuous support with monitoring and evaluation, and quality control among others.

The proposed project will consist of 4 different components to tackle bottlenecks at four subsectors, namely production, processing, packaging and distribution, and one crosscutting intervention to set up a traceability system across the value chain.

**Key Words to Identify Research (8 maximum)**

Social Inclusion, Biodiversity Conservation, Poverty Alleviation, Empowerment, Social Inclusion, Social Entrepreneurship