PROJECT SUMMARY

Ref No.: MRIC-SIRGS-2101	Title: 'BEES WITH STORIES': Beekeeping for the promotion of biodiversity conservation and in support of vulnerable groups

Local Company: T.i.A Bee products Ltd

Collaborating Institution: Ferney Ltd

Project Leader	
Ms Madvee Muthu	T.i.A Bee products Ltd

Collaborator	
Name	**Organisation**
Mr Damien de Froberville	Ferney Ltd

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