

ABSTRACT

Modern beekeeping across Kenya is still a new idea as most of the beekeepers continue to exclusively use traditional hives leading to low quality and quantity of the honey produced. This study was carried out to establish the determinants of modern box hive adoption in Kitui county. Data was mainly collected through questionnaires administered to 110 beekeepers (42 adopters and 68 non-adopters) from the five selected locations of Mwingi Central Sub-county namely; Waita, Nuu, Kivou, Mwingi and Mui. The collected quantitative data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20.0. Chi-square tests revealed a statistically significant relation between adoption of modern box hives and; modern beekeeping training, apiary visit, offfarm employment, credit use and extension contact. T-test analysis indicated significant mean differences between adopters and non-adopters in terms of; age, education level, knowledge and experience in beekeeping. Logistic regression further provided more details on the significant predictor variables. It was concluded that the low adoption rate is linked to a number of socioeconomic and institutional factors which must be addressed in order to increase adoption of the more productive modern box hives. The study recommends among other things; establishment of more honey processing and marketing centres and facilitation of more extension contact with beekeepers.

Key words: Modern box hives, adoption, determinants.