

**women's access to economic activities in rural Tanzania: the case of female
beekeepers in Uyui district, Tabora region**

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This study examined the impact of women's participation in beekeeping activities as strategies for addressing poverty and as a process of empowering women at grassroots level in rural Tanzania. The impact on women's participation in beekeeping both at social and economic levels as well as associated problems were analyzed in order to establish the changes on women's lives who engaged in the beekeeping activities. A sample of eighty-nine (89) interviewees consisting of female beekeepers, non-beekeeping females and male beekeepers from two wards, in Uyui District, Tabora Region were purposefully selected and interviewed for this study. Women development in rural areas in most developing countries is the responsibilities of the governments. In Tanzania, for instance, the government through NORAD designed a project, which aimed at involving women in beekeeping in order to increase incomes and improve their standards of living, especially in beekeeping. Furthermore, income has helped women to increase decision-making capacity within the household as well as in the communities. Their participation has also significant impact on the adoption of the modern beekeeping methods such as the use of TTHs and beekeeping of stingless honeybees. However, women beekeepers face a number of problems such as low prices of honey and beeswax, lack of credit services, high costs of the beekeeping equipments, just to list a few, and these have caused some women to achieve little development.