

# Consumer and Retailer Survey of local honey (2019-2020)





# Honey production for past 4 years (Min. of Agriculture)







• Increasing production, slow sales of honey in market, we need to understand current market behaviour.

## AIM OF OUR CONSUMER AND RETAIL SURVEY

- What do we know about our local consumers of honey? Perceptions, motivations and habits?
- How about retailers?
- How does this information help beekeepers in the marketing and branding of their honey?

### METHODS – Surveys, consumer and vendors (2019 - PreCOVID)







#### Understanding Consumer Preferences of Honey in Fiji

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this brief survey. Estimated time to complete this survey = 5 - 10 minutes

The Pacific Agribusiness Research in Development Initiative Phase 2 (PARDI2) is a four-year research program funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The project aims to identify and understand how agribusiness development opportunities can improve economic growth and livelihoods in Pacific Islands Countries.

Together with the Fiji Beekeepers Association (FBA), PARDI2 is completing work on Fiji's domestic market analysis of consumer preferences for honey.

This survey will improve our understanding of the local honey market particularly consumers and what influences their choices in purchases and consumption of honey. Results from this survey will greatly inform our local beekeepers and may improve current honey and honey



#### 174 surveys completed

- 154 online (2020)
- 20 face to face (2019)

## Key Results and Messages for Beekeepers



Local consumers are health Conscious

Aware of the medicinal properties of honey





#### WHAT ARE CONSUMERS SAYING?

#### Important to know where honey is produced (%) 100 75 50 25 0 Disagree Not Sure Agree Australian Centre FIJI BE KEEPERS or International gricultural Research

EY BEES FOR HEALTH

PARDI

Consumers want to know where your honey is produced.

Locations = associations, for e.g Sigatoka - the salad bowl of Fiji, the burning West, etc

Labels = Origin of honey





A great honey brand is about a quality product and a good relationship with the producer.





- Loyalty to established beekeeper brands.
- Direct contact with beekeepers or honey sellers is important.
- Consumers usually buy from supermarket and the municipal market.

#### Where do consumers NEVER buy honey (%)?



There are markets and outlets that beekeepers have yet to explore.

Potential also to enter the tourism market (HoReCa)

Have you ever bought honey online?



## **Comments from Retailers**

- More promotions/messaging on its use and nutritional value of honey - it's healthy food.
- Good relationships with supplier
- Attractive packaging and labelling
- Boost marketing effort from producer or supplier end
- Know when to boost marketing (such as around national events, public holidays, etc)

## **Potential COVID-Related Impacts/Causes**

• Convenience, Safety and Price







- Delivery
- Online shopping
- Payment gateways

## **Presentations to FBA**



WHAT ARE CONSUMERS SAYING?





-YHER Incubator program for Women entrepreneurs

- Mentoring critical
- Webinars

## Next steps

- Development of marketing and branding content for training
- Selection of key enterprises interested in strengthening marketing and branding
- Connecting with other enterprise support programmes

#### https://yherpacificislands.org/program/



# Challenges, plans and recommendations

- Encountered two waves of COVID19
- Report submission and circulation (publication)
- Google form generated is a good online tool for FBA to continue updating consumer preferences.
- Incubator/Accelerator/Mentoring programs post COVID...along value chain?