

# BEE A VOICE FOR THE BEES

**Bees evolved millions of years ago and were here before human beings. Today we need to ensure that they don't leave this planet before we do!**

**World over, Indigenous Peoples have been closely associated with honey bees – in a give and take relationship – bees gave honey and pollinated crops- Indigenous Peoples kept forests and farms protected for the bees to nest and reproduce.**

- There are 20,000 species of bees world over and an estimated 140 of them produce honey-an elixir of life
- Beekeeping is an ancient practice and many indigenous peoples have their unique way of keeping bees in their farms and in the forest.
- Modern beekeeping has spread widely and brings income to thousands of bee keepers.
- The industrial beekeeping we see today had also lead to disease among bees and has been at the cost of other native bees.
- Raw honey is also called the 'elixir of life' and is a product that never spoils if kept in proper conditions.
- Is it right to call it honey if it is not made by the bees? Can the bees file for patents? Who will be a voice for the Bees?
- Honey Bees are important pollinators and we need to protect their life cycles from harmful chemicals

## **BEES ARE DYING AND WE CAN DO SOMETHING TO STOP THIS!**

- There are 300 types of honey worldwide that have been documented. We need to bring the diversity back into honey.
- Bees wax is a natural and healthy component of soaps, cosmetics that have been replaced by industrial products.
- Each basket of pollen in the hind legs of the honey bee is telling us about the secrets of the forest and farms. The Bees are telling us how healthy is our environment – are we listening to the voice of the bees!