

Positioning on adulteration of HONEY

CLAC's Honey Network (2019)



Small-scale beekeepers and members of CLAC's Honey Network, from Fairtrade certified honey organizations throughout Latin America, make this public declaration regarding the presence of adulterated (or falsified) honeys in the international market.

Honey is a substance that bees produce by transforming the nectar of flowers. As such, it is a totally natural product that should not be modified in any way. The transformation of nectar into honey is an exclusive labor of the bees and must be done inside the hive.

Unfortunately, industrial processes have been developed that can alter honey. These include diluting it with rice or artificial sweeteners (corn syrup), ultra-filtrating, eliminating residues or systematically dehumidifying prematurely harvested honey. This constitutes a real and concrete threat that violates the quality and genuineness of honey.

Fairtrade certified honey organizations urge the public, including beekeepers, consumers and the honey industry alike, to take action and advocate for long-term, sustainable honey production. Please take the following into consideration:

Raise awareness among consumers about the importance of responsible consumption:

An adulterated or falsified product deceives the consumer. Read packaging information carefully to find out the origin of the honey and if it's 100% natural. Knowledge by labelling empowers consumers when choosing their purchase.

Greater responsibility of market actors and governments:

We invite all the actors within the value chain to work in more careful and transparent ways when buying or selling honey. Ensuring the correct labelling and control of the products is fundamental to advance in the fight against adulteration, protecting beekeeping and consumers.

Sustainability for small-scale beekeepers:

The growing presence of fake or adulterated honey in the markets has caused an oversupply and a price collapse for Fairtrade beekeepers. The adulterated honey constitutes unfair competition for all genuine beekeepers, directly threatening their work.

CLAC's Honey Network invites its partners, allies, public and private actors, as well as the media to share these concerns and to continue raising awareness about the challenges facing small-scale beekeepers.