



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA  
Ministry of Environment & Planning  

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Department of Environmental Protection

# Development of a strategy for the future of agriculture in Bermuda

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# Bermuda Agriculture Strategy Process 2012- 2013

Stakeholder reception

Technical Focus Group

Horticulture

Irrigation

Markets & Economy

Crop Production

Land use

Animal Products

Education & Training

Technology & Capital

Technical Focus Group meeting 1

Technical Focus Group meeting 2

Ad hoc Working Group 1

Ad hoc Working Group 2



Agriculture Strategy

# Varroa Mite Infestation – Update 2013



# Varroa Mite – Time line

- Leading up to 2009, Bermuda had a managed bee population of approximately 350 to 400 hives on the island, two main beekeepers and a handful of small hobby beekeepers (one to three hives each)

## 2009

- In November 2009 a beekeeper found varroa mites in a sample of wax removed from a feral colony that was established in the roof of a house
- The mite was sent away to the USDA Bee Lab in Maryland for confirmation
- A survey of the island was carried out and mites were found to be present in all the hives

# Honey bee situation

## 2010 - 2013

- 2012 - Colonies rebounded from the crash of 2011
- 2013 - Colonies have not rebounded as in previous years
- Far fewer swarms have been collected
- Currently less than 80 - 100 surviving hives on the island

# Honey bee situation

The role of other environmental stressors are currently being examined including the effects of agrochemicals (neo-nicotinoids) on the colonies

Viruses transmitted by mites have been implicated

The next steps

- to consider importing Varroa Sensitive Hygienic queen bees to introduce the hygienic trait into Bermuda
- to allow the remaining population to 'survive' and re-queen colonies with the fittest queens