



Bee experts check a colonised bee hive. COURTESY PHOTO

## Bee keeping: Big but untapped enterprise

Uganda is ranked among the best honey producers on the continent evidenced by the listing on the European Union market but pundits stress little has been done so far.

Speaking at the Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation (TUNADO) multi stake holder platform recently, Prof. Jacob Agea, head agriculture extension and innovation at Makerere University noted that while most Ugandan bee keepers use local hives and old technology most are not aware of the

profitability of the other bee hive products.

“This keeps many in the backyard of the business. Take for instance, products such as bees wax and propolis are easy to harvest and have huge market but most farmers still throw them away,” said Prof Agea.

According to reports from the ministry of agriculture Uganda produces an estimated 12,000 metric tonnes of honey against the projected potential of 500,000 metric tonnes.

— By Brian Ssenoga