

## **Honey Testing Laboratory**

Mobile honey testing laboratory is a unique and innovative approach to help the communities to check the purity of the harvested raw honey samples in a cost effective manner.

The existing honey testing for antibiotics and sugar would cost between ₹ 40,000/- to 45,000/- per sample. Whereas the new testing methods introduced by Dabur's Research and development centre (DRDC), Sahibabad would cost ₹ 6000-7000/- per sample.

The FSSAI methods require very costly testing tools/equipment (approx. ₹ 4-5 crore) like LCMS, e-IRMS and HPLC. The new methods developed by DRDC costs about ₹ 45-50 lacs at about 90% accuracy. Accordingly the 10% correction factor will be added to the reading which will help in reducing the rejection/penalization of raw honey samples. Because of its cost effectiveness, it is possible to test multiple samples at PG level. In turn, it helps to identify and trace any quality problems at smaller crème level. Basis these observations, practices of community can be improved in a formed manner.

With the help of Randox-UK the scientists from DRDC have developed kits for testing fructose, glucose and sucrose. About 40 antibiotics will also be evaluated at the ground level much before honey is filtered and bottled.

Once this preliminary screening is done, the final sample can be checked on HPLC & LCMS every six months as defined by FSSAI. There will be time saving as well as cost saving with this new method. The conventional LCMS would handle 40 samples in 7 days while ELISA method developed by DRDC would handle 45 samples in 2 days.

This entire process is being standardized with possible variations between existing method and new method. All the honey bee keepers will be benefited with this cost effective approach.



PIC 1: Inauguration of Mobile Honey testing lab by SHG members and CEO, BRLPS Mr Balamurugan.D



PIC 2: Members of Team Non-farm and delegates from Dabur Ltd in front of Mobile Honey testing van





PIC 3: A glimpse of Mobile Honey testing lab



PIC 4: CEO, BRLPS interacting with officials from Dabur India Ltd.

