

Curriculum vitae Dr. Johan van Veen

After having finished his biology studies at Utrecht University, Johan van Veen has been working at the Tropical Institute for Bee Research of the National University of Costa Rica since 1990. He was coordinator of the Regional Program for Beekeeping and the Keeping of Stingless Bees, which was a cooperative project between the Department of Bee Research of Utrecht University and the National University in Costa Rica. His research on the reproductive biology of colonies of stingless bees resulted in a doctoral degree in 1999. He was president of the Costa Rican Beekeepers Chamber from 2006 to 2010. He has directed more than 60 thesis studies by students from Utrecht University, the National University of Costa Rica and by students coming from neighboring countries like Nicaragua, Panama, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico. He was officially appointed as professor at UNA since 2006. Dr. Van Veen has worked as international beekeeping consultant for several International Institutions and NGO's, such as FAO, Swiss Contact, Hivos, PNUD and Sweet Progress, training the trainers for beekeeping development in Central America and the Caribbean. Currently he is working on how changing flowering patterns due to climate variability may affect honey bee productivity and stingless bee reproduction. The many visits to local beekeepers in Costa Rica and Central America have allowed Van Veen to observe and understand the factors limiting beekeeping in this region and to determine several challenges for innovation.

Some recent publications include a book about "Beekeeping for Poverty Alleviation and Livelihood Security" with Dr. Rakesh Gupta and Dr. Wim Reybroeck (Springer), several papers with Dr. Stefan Jarau about caste determination in stingless bees, about reproduction in *Varroa destructor* with Dr. Calderon, and a book about native trees of Mesoamerica, important for bees.

He was involved in several studies using African Honeybees and tropical stingless bees for the pollination of melon, coffee, blackberries and avocado's, about which he will talk at the NECTAR symposium.