

**PRESS RELEASE – February 7, 2014**

The University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service will be hosting the *7th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress* and the *2nd Annual Caribbean Bee College* on **May 26-30, 2014** at the Albert A. Sheen Campus, University of the Virgin Islands, Kingshill, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands.

This event is run through a partnership between the University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service (UVI/CES), Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture (VIDOA), Association of Caribbean Beekeepers' Organizations (ACBO), the East Caribbean Bee Research and Extension Center (ECBREC) at St. Georges University (SGU), the Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab (HBREL) at the University of Florida (UF), and beekeepers in the Caribbean. The objective of the Congress is to share a platform in which we can effectively deliver research, current events and issues, information, tools, and resources that we hope will improve the sustainability of beekeeping in the islands.

The five-day event will consist of two-days Congress, one-day combo session of meetings, technical tours, and a cultural evening, followed by two days of College. The second Annual Caribbean Honey Show will also be featured during this exciting week.

Congress highlights will include a keynote address from Dr. Nicola Bradbear, Director of Bees for Development, on "Beekeeping, a Global Perspective: Developments and Trends." There will be reports and highlights on the successes in the region. There will also be a featured 'call for papers' where beekeepers and bee researchers from around the world will be invited to showcase their latest findings.

The Combo session will provide technical tours where participants will have the chance to visit the island of St. Croix and its local apiaries (transportation will be provided).

College highlights include morning lectures and afternoon workshops on a variety of beginner and advanced honey bee and beekeeping topics. Live honey bee colonies will be on-site to facilitate a hands-on learning experience. Courses include everything from honey bee biology to hive product marketing, Caribbean honey plants, pests, and diseases.