

BEE HIVE AGRICULTURE PROJECT (TOP BAR HIVE)

KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATION COUNCIL (JARAMOGI SCHEME)

A **Top-Bar Hive (TBH)** is a popular beekeeping method, especially in small-scale and educational settings like a secondary school agricultural project. Here are its key advantages:

1. Cost-Effectiveness

- Requires fewer materials compared to traditional Langstroth hives.
- Can be made from locally available materials such as wood, bamboo, or metal sheets.

2. Simplicity & Ease of Management

- Designed with horizontal bars, making it easy to inspect without disturbing the entire colony.
- No need for heavy lifting, as there are no stacked boxes like in Langstroth hives.

3. Bee Health & Comfort

- Mimics the natural way bees build combs, promoting a more natural hive environment.
- Reduces the risk of disease spread because combs can be removed and replaced individually.

4. Minimal Equipment Required

- No need for expensive extractors; honey can be harvested by cutting and straining combs.
- Simple tools like a hive tool and a smoker are enough for hive maintenance.

5. Gentle on Bees

- Bees are less disturbed during inspections since only a portion of the hive is opened at a time.
- Less stress on the colony leads to healthier and more productive bees.

6. Suitable for Small-Scale & Educational Use

- Ideal for secondary schools, community farms, and beginners in beekeeping.
- Encourages hands-on learning in sustainable farming and pollinator conservation