AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF) SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME (SGP), INNOVATION PROGRAMME ON NATURE-BASED WOMEN-LED ENTERPRISES, THE UNDP GEF SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME IN LESOTHO IS PARTNERING WITH TECHNOLOGIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (TED), A CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION, TO CAPACITATE WOMEN IN BEEKEEPING; TARGETING WOMEN AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN FIVE HOTSPOTS, NAMELY, BUTHA BUTHE, MASERU, MAFETENG, QUTHING AND QACHA’S NEK. ONE OF THE MILESTONES THUS FAR IS A SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING THAT ENTAILED TOP BAR HIVE MAKING, HIVE MANAGEMENT, DISEASE/PEST MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.
200 Top bar hives and trap boxes were produced by the trainees during the training.

Each participant took home between 2 and 4 hives and a trap box home to continue putting their skills to practice, and test the new technology.
10 hives were colonised a week after the training and some were ready for harvesting by 18 weeks.

36 women and field officers from the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation were capacitated with new bee management skills and hive making.