



Dear Apimondia Members:

The Apimondia Statement on Honey Fraud, first released in January 2019, has already had an important impact on the international honey market.

The APIMONDIA Working Group on Adulteration of Bee Products, the responsible body for the preparation and reviewing of this Statement, is integrated by specialists representing the five continents. Several APIMONDIA specialists, experts from prestigious international universities, representatives of public and private beekeeping institutions, and prestigious honey testing laboratories have contributed to the 2020 revised version, now being uploaded to our website.

Since the first publication of the Statement on Honey Fraud, numerous letters with comments have been received from APIMONDIA members and from other non-member associations. All comments were heard and discussed. As a result, this updated version now has been prepared and made available. We consider this is an improved version of this “living” Statement. After the release of each new version, the revision work of the Working Group will start again in order to gather and include all significant new information as it becomes available.

This Working Group assures, through consultation with the leading honey scientists, technical experts, specialist honey laboratories or others with sufficient market knowledge, that the Statement is reflective of the most up-to-date information and collective thinking on the topic. We always welcome new comments, which significantly help to us to continuously improve the quality of the document.

During the next APIMONDIA Congress we plan to organize a forum for the presentation of the document with an ample opportunity for questions and comments, which will surely constitute valuable material for discussion and further improvements of the Statement.

As described in the Statement, honey is a one-of-a-kind product, the result of a unique, complex, and sustained interaction between the plant and animal kingdoms, opposed to other foods, whose

manufacturing practices and consumer tastes have changed over time. Honey perception by humans stands significantly the same and is nowadays consumed in a very similar way as it was in ancient times. We always try to do our best by working in the defense of honey, its image, and in the preservation of its definition. Honey is our great treasure and we have been honored to be the guardians of that treasure. By protecting honey, we protect bees and beekeepers. Honey adulteration may not only be a problem of food safety or food defense but also a significant problem of food security, which concerns the capacity of countries to provide their own food.

The crisis provoked by honey fraud has deepened and broadened, but at the same time, awareness of the crisis has grown. There has never been a period in human history during which the concern for the world's bees and their shepherds has been so widespread. This means the imperative to solve this problem occurs within an increasingly favorable international environment.

The APIMONDIA Working Group on Adulteration of Bee Products