

# Promotion of beekeeping: Insights from an empirical comparison of two honey value chains in Benin



Figure 1. Honey comb



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4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Global Food Security 2020  
7-9 December 2020 | Online and On Demand

## Introduction

- ⇒ Beekeeping is increasingly promoted in developing countries as a promising option for income diversification in rural areas.
- ⇒ Despite its economic potential and the ecosystem services offered, the beekeeping and especially the honey production is underperforming in Benin.
- ⇒ The study investigates two honey value chains - "honey harvested in wild" and "honey from apiaries".
- ⇒ Analyze functioning and profitability, in order to identify strategies for sustainable promotion of beekeeping in Benin.

## Methods

- ⇒ A survey was conducted across Benin from October to November 2016.
- ⇒ First stage: an exploratory stage that consisted of identifying all the honey value chains in Benin, and the agents involved in their functioning.
- ⇒ Second stage: in-depth survey, focused exclusively on the direct agents (honey producers, middlemen, and consumers), 406 in total.
- ⇒ Data were collected on their functioning, operation and profitability through semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and face-to-face administered questionnaires.
- ⇒ Data processing and analysis include: the (i) mapping of honey value chains, (ii) analysis of the governance, (iii) analysis of the institutional environment, and (iv) analysis of performance of chains.

## Results

### 1. Mapping of honey value chains

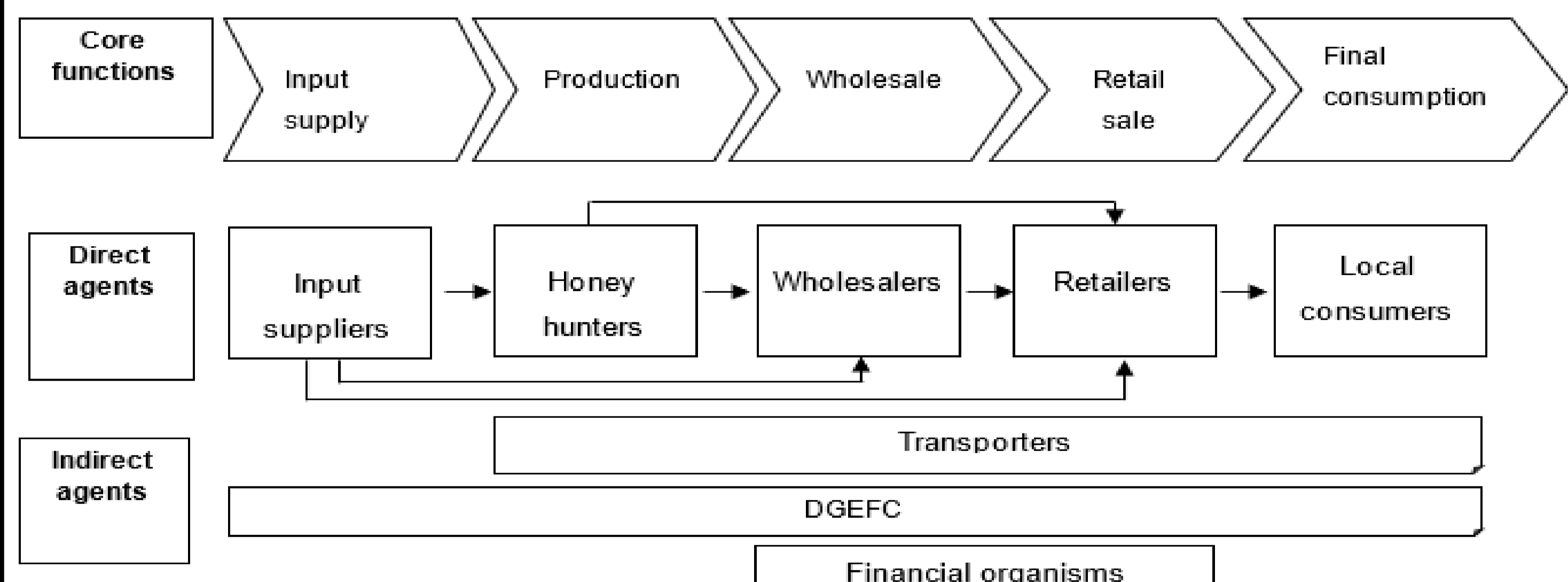


Figure 2. Map of the value chain of honey harvested in wild

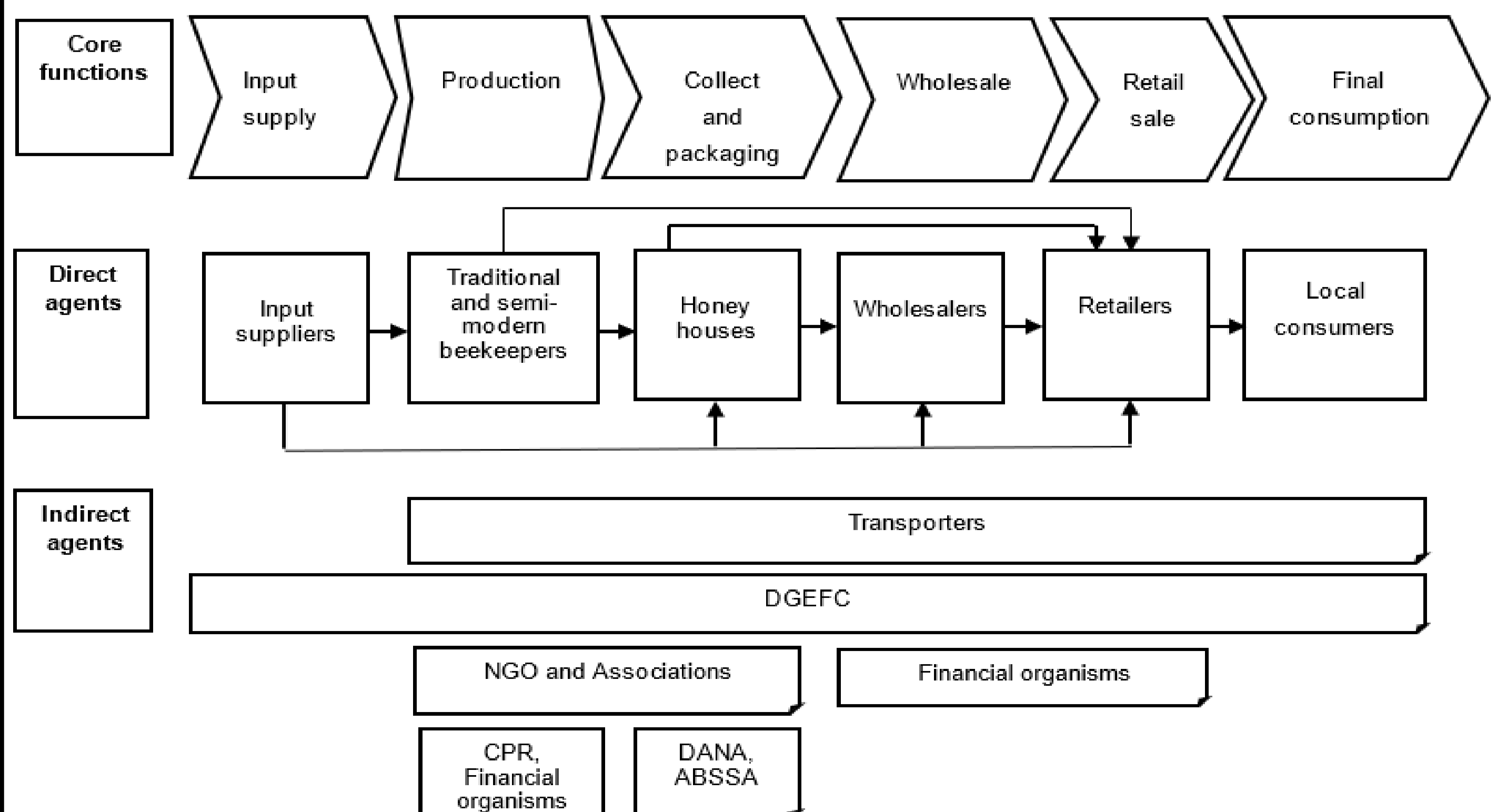


Figure 3. Map of the value chain of honey from apiaries

Note. NGO: Non-governmental Organizations; DGEFC: Direction Générale des Eaux, Forêts et Chasses (a Department of Ministry of environment and nature protection); DANA: Direction of Food and Applied Nutrition; ABSSA: Beninese Food Safety Agency; CPR: Rural Promotion Centers

## Results

### 2. Value chains governance

#### Value chain of honey harvested in wild:

- ⇒ Market coordination was low; generally, each link in this value chain fixed the price of honey at its level.
- ⇒ Lack of professional organization.

#### Value chain of honey from apiaries:

- ⇒ Networks are the main coordination mechanism in the value chain.
- ⇒ Existence of honey producers' associations at the village or district level; producers sold their produce to honey houses.
- ⇒ Market coordination was low; generally, each link in the value chain fixed the price of honey at its level.

### 3. Institutional environment

- ⇒ Lack of specific policy for beekeeping in Benin.
- ⇒ Taxation level of honey is relatively affordable in the value chains.

### 4. Performance of the chains

- ⇒ Both value chains were financially profitable to the various stakeholders.
- ⇒ The value chain of honey from apiaries had the highest value-added (XOF 3,154 per liter).
- ⇒ Honey producers and honey traders in the value chain of honey from apiaries had the highest value-added compared to that honey harvested in wild (Figure 4).

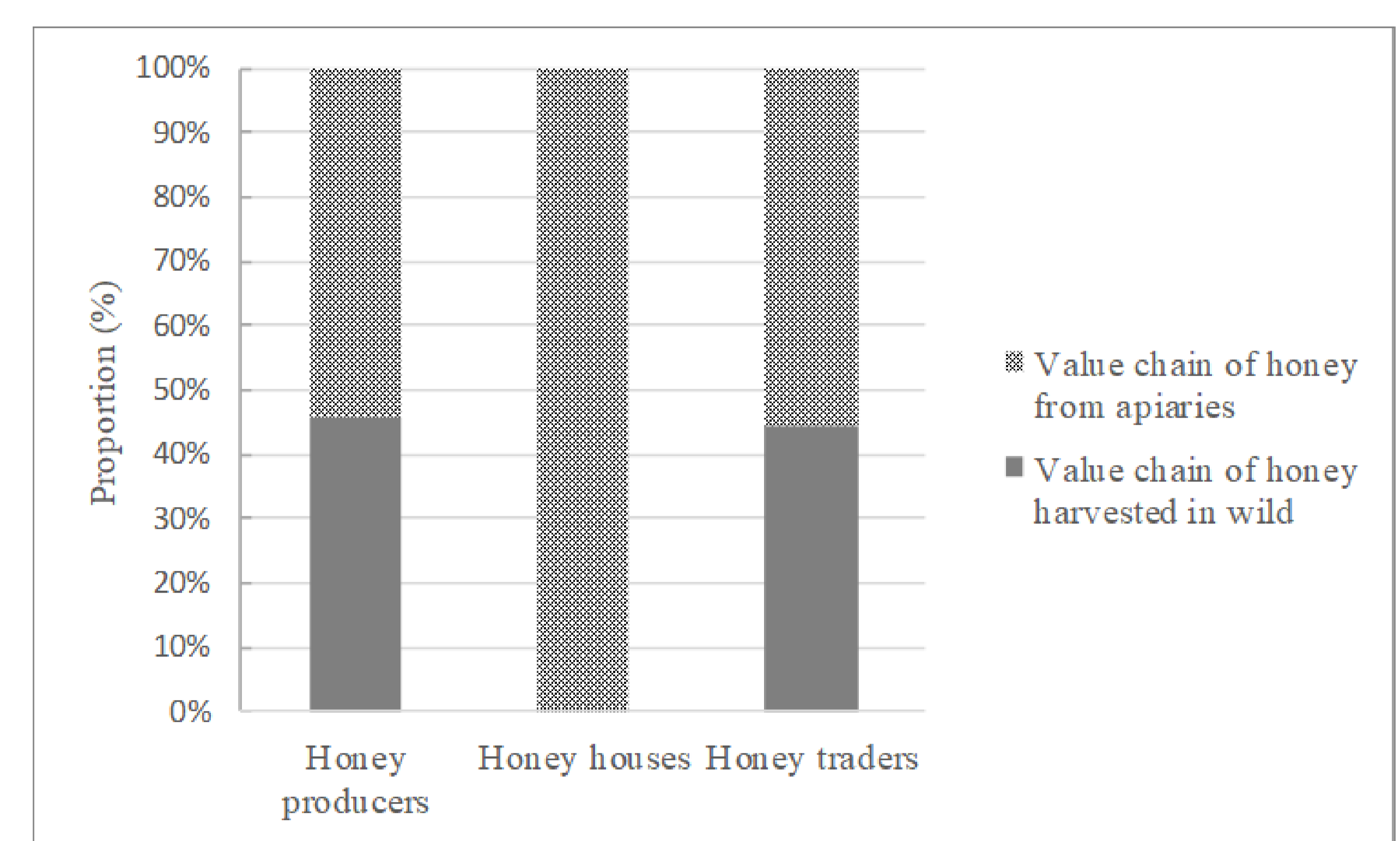


Figure 4. Value-added distribution among honey value chains agents

## Conclusion

### Policy implication to improve the performance of the honey value chains in Benin:

- ⇒ conversion of honey hunters and traditional beekeepers to beekeepers;
- ⇒ training of beekeepers and the facilitation of access to finance for agents;
- ⇒ promotion of partnership between potential beekeepers and honey houses, through the development of horizontal coordination among honey producers;
- ⇒ development of a platform of innovation for exchange and collaboration.