



# Myanmar – EU Trade Helpdesk



## Myanmar Product Profile: Honey

### Myanmar Honey

Myanmar's tropical climate and traditional agricultural techniques make for a large variety of good quality honey. It has a high potential for further expansion in the following years.

### Why You Should Buy from Myanmar

- **Myanmar is home to a high variety of exotic crops**, which are the origin of many different types of honey all year round.
- **Honey is produced in a traditional way on a small scale**, offering a stable source of income for beekeepers in rural areas.
- **Myanmar is mostly free of common diseases that affect bees**, so no treatment with antibiotics or other medicines is needed.

Myanmar honey bees



Source: GIZ

### Production Data

The beekeeping area in Myanmar is currently about 670 ha, with an estimated annual production between 4,000 and 5,000 tonnes of honey per year. Volumes produced are still low compared to other countries in the region such as China, Thailand, or Vietnam, but production has been growing steadily.

Secluded small-scale production also has advantages. Common bee diseases, such as varroa mites, have not occurred in Myanmar. Therefore, there is no medical treatment of the bees, except for the occasional use of formic and oxalic acids as organic treatments.

Due to the small scale, traditional farming methods are still very common in Myanmar, and much of the honey is antibiotic- and pesticide- free. Adulteration of honey has not yet been an issue in Myanmar. The public sector, as well as international donors, now target the implementation of production standards such as Good Beekeeping Practices, Good Manufacturing Practices, and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles.

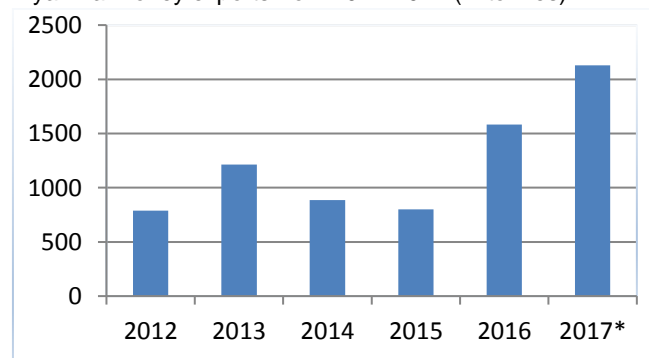
About half of the honey produced in Myanmar originates from jujube trees (*Ziziphus jujube*). Other crops include niger (*Guizotia abyssinica*), sesame, sunflower, three-step flower (*Leucas cephalotes*), kapok (white silk cotton tree), pigeon-pea, forest flower, and lychee. About 10% of honey is estimated to stem from wild flowers. A fairly new crop that is used for honeydew production is from rubber trees. There is also expected to be a high future potential for honey from avocado and macadamia, with new plantations that started 2012 in the Shan Highlands, in Eastern Myanmar.

The Apiculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation supports the local beekeeping industry. It offers advice and provides related services. In addition, some international donors run projects that enable beekeepers to fulfil international quality and safety standards.

### Export Structure

Myanmar currently only has six companies that together export a little over 2,000 tonnes of honey per year.

Myanmar honey exports from 2012-2017 (in tonnes)



Source: Myanmar Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, 2018

Operated by



Supported by





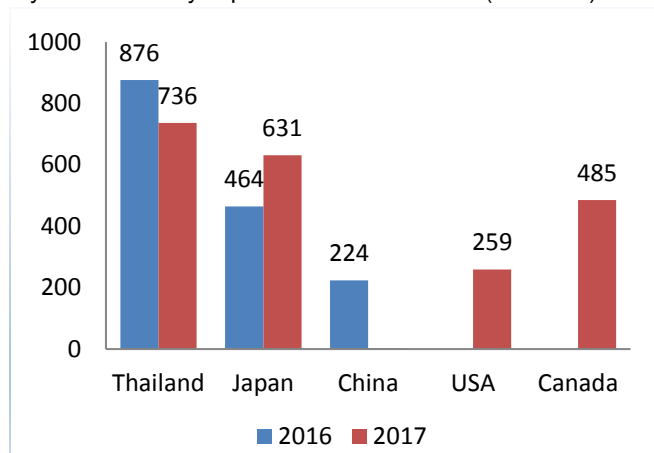
# Myanmar – EU Trade Helpdesk



Myanmar honey used to be predominantly sold to other Asian countries, primarily Thailand, Japan, and China. Myanmar honey is also being exported to Canada and the United States.

The majority of honey from Myanmar is exported in bulk. Only about 100 tonnes per year leave the country packaged, according to producers.

Myanmar's honey exports in 2016 and 2017 (in tonnes)



Source: International Trade Centre (ITC) Trade Map, 2018

## Companies

There are currently about 900-1,000 beekeepers in Myanmar. Most of the 138,000 beehives are situated in the central region, mainly the Shan State and Mandalay Region. Only the honey from rubber trees is produced by beehives in the coastal area in the southern part of the country. Additionally, the country has six processing facilities, one of which is government-owned.

Most beekeepers are small-scale entrepreneurs who move along with their beehives. Recently, some small cooperatives have been formed as well. Since beekeeping does not require land ownership and needs relatively little initial investment, it is an attractive source of income for women, youth, and vulnerable segments of the population.

## Beekeeping in Myanmar



Source: GIZ

## Government and Support Organisations

There are several organisations and projects in Myanmar supporting the honey sector. Some of the relevant projects and organisations are:

- Apiculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
- Myanmar Apiculture Association
- Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) sponsored [Plan-Bee Project](#), to increase livelihood and food security opportunities of communities in Southern Shan State through advancement of the beekeeping sector and support of honey producer cooperatives.
- [Trade Development Programme \(TDP\)](#): Funded by the European Union (EU) and co-funded by the German Government, helps beekeepers and honey producers to comply with EU regulations and assists with the implementation of the national residue monitoring plan.

## Contact:

Myanmar – EU Trade Helpdesk  
Ministry of Commerce  
No. 228-240 Strand Road, second floor  
Yangon, Myanmar  
Email: [mmeu.tradehelpdesk@gmail.com](mailto:mmeu.tradehelpdesk@gmail.com)

*This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the author (Randi Wagener) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or any other party.*

July 2018

Operated by



Supported by

