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Reef Saudi invests in honey sector aims to increase honey production

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The Sustainable Agricultural Rural Development Program "Reef Saudi" has made a significant investment in the honey sector of Saudi Arabia. Since 2020, the program has allocated SAR140 million in support, which has benefited over 10,584 individuals in various rural areas. Honey production has also seen a notable increase, reaching 3,120 tonnes annually in 2023, which is a 41 per cent increase compared to 2021. The program has set an ambitious target of producing 7,500 tonnes of honey each year by 2026.

To support the honey sector and increase the local bee population, "Reef Saudi" has adopted a multifaceted approach. The program provides beekeepers in rural areas with vital services, including inspection and guidance, while also prioritising the preservation of the Kingdom's bee wealth by safeguarding it from diseases and pests.

According to the Saudi Press Agency, The program has implemented several key projects to achieve its objectives. These projects include the establishment of queen bee breeding stations and package production facilities in Hail, Najran, Jazan, Madinah, Tabuk, and Taif. It also includes supplying three mobile laboratories to examine and diagnose bee diseases and pests at beekeeping locations, as well as deploying four mobile clinics equipped with the necessary tools to examine and diagnose bee health concerns in the field.

This rural program plays a crucial role in promoting environmental sustainability and diversifying Saudi Arabia's agricultural production base. By fostering the development of rural communities, the program contributes to reaching national food security. "Reef Saudi" also supports the creation of job opportunities, improves the livelihoods of small farmers, and enhances their agricultural capabilities.