



# **HONEY PURITY AND AUTHENTICITY**

**Honey labelling: Time to bee transparent**

**November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

**Prof. Norberto García**

**Economy Commission of APIMONDIA**

# **THE DEFINITION OF HONEY**

## **COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2001/110/EC**

**P1:** “Honey is the natural sweet substance **produced by *Apis mellifera* bees** from the nectar of plants or from secretions of living parts of plants or excretions of plant-sucking insects on the living parts of plants, which the bees collect, transform by combining with specific substances of their own, deposit, dehydrate, store and leave in honeycombs to ripen and mature”.

**P2:** “When placed on the market as honey or used in any product intended for human consumption, honey shall not have added to it any food ingredient, including food additives, **nor shall any other additions be made other than honey**”.

**P3:** “**No pollen or other individual ingredient of honey is to be removed**, unless that is inevitable when organic and inorganic foreign materials are removed...”.

**P4:** “Honey the name of which includes indications concerning floral, vegetable, **regional, territorial or topographical origin or specific quality criteria may not have filtered honey added to it**”.

## **TYPES OF HONEY FRAUD**

- 1. Dilution with syrups (P1 and P2 violated).**
- 2. Harvesting of immature honey (P1 and P3 violated, and also P2 in blends).**
- 3. Using ion-exchange resins to remove/reduce residues and/or lighten honey color (P3 violated).**
- 4. Masking and/or mislabeling the geographical and/or botanical origin of honey (P4 violated).**
- 5. Artificial feeding of bees during a nectar flow (P1 and P2 violated).**

## SOME RECENT EFFORTS TO COMBAT HONEY FRAUD

- ✓ The **United States Pharmacopeia** published its **Identity Standard for Honey** with and international scope in the Food Chemicals Codex on last September 1st. ([www.foodchemicalscodex.org](http://www.foodchemicalscodex.org)). Now working on other projects: e.g. The Honey Fraud Mitigation Guidance with the collaboration of FEEDM.
- ✓ The **Apimondia Working Group on Honey Adulteration**, with members representing the 5 continents, updated the **Apimondia Statement on Honey Fraud** in 2020 (English, Spanish and Chinese versions available at [www.apimondia.com](http://www.apimondia.com)) and is now planning to start a new revision process in for an update in 2022.

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

- ✓ Continue the efforts to update International Standards for honey
- ✓ Improve the Traceability systems to prevent fraud.
- ✓ Many honeys in the international honey market may not fulfill the requirement of the EU Honey Directive.
- ✓ A correct honey labelling with the list of the different countries of origin and their percentages is extremely important.
- ✓ The consumers must be fully informed to be able to make a choice.
- ✓ Experiences from other parts of the world could be useful.



**THANK YOU !!!**