

Abejas de Irak luchan contra la sequía para producir su miel



Agencia AFP



A beekeeper checks on bee frames at an apiary in the village of al-Raghila near Hilla in central Iraq on July 6, 2023. An oppressive heat beats down on the central Iraqi province of Babylon, where drought and rising temperatures are hitting hard bees and honey production. (Photo by Ahmad AL-RUBAYE / AFP)

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Mohamed Aliaui, levanta la tapa de una de las decenas de colmenas que vigila en el centro de Irak, donde la sequía y el aumento de las temperaturas afectan la producción de miel.





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Su empresa repartió decenas de colmenas en dos emplazamientos en la provincia de Babilonia, para escapar de las temperaturas veraniegas, que rozan los 50°C.



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Para encontrar verdor y forraje, la abeja debe recorrer distancias cada vez más largas, "Esto afecta su esperanza de vida. La obrera, en buenas condiciones, puede vivir 60 días. En las circunstancias actuales, solo 20 (días)", explica el apicultor, recordando que la temperatura óptima para una abeja es entre 30°C y 35°C.



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Zeheiri aconseja a los apicultores que coloquen las colmenas bajo un toldo de caña, cerca de los árboles y de una fuente de agua.





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En un país donde los remolinos de arena se encadenan, "cuando llega una tormenta, si las abejas salen, la mitad no podrá volver", lamenta quien, en un momento, dirigió la sección de mujeres de la Unión de Apicultores Árabes.



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Como consecuencia, si bien a principios de los años 2000 una colmena producía entre 20 y 25 kilos al año, hoy no supera los cinco kilos.





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