

lower ranks and just starting in this industry do not seem to be aware of the sacrifices and difficulties that the industry offers. Pay and conditions need to be taken seriously because the majority of the candidates not accepting a job offer and opting for another do it just for the pay. Long hours is another issue and is listed as the main reason why they eventually opt to leave an establishment. If the wages and conditions are not going to be improved, and the local institution, Institute of Tourism Studies and the industry start working hand in hand to understand each other, then the shortage will be much higher in a few years' time and the amount of foreigners, replacing the Maltese workforce will increase.

The researcher believes that this shortage will lead either to an automatic rise in wages by a substantial amount or else the quality of certain restaurants will drop reflecting the inferior quality of skill applied in the various kitchens.

Culinary Arts Student, Thomas Camilleri delivered a

study on the problems that are affecting the local apiculture industry, the Maltese Honeybee (*Apis Mellifera Ruttneri*), the art of beekeeping and suggestions to what could be done to stop the extinction of the bees.

A small insect hops from one blossom to another, scattering nectar and pollen across the fields while producing a golden liquid full of health benefits. This insect is the honeybee. Honeybees have been helping mankind in various ways most importantly, by producing honey and pollinating crops. In the past years honeybees' populations have declined, including those in the Maltese islands. This research is based on the problems that the local apiculture industry is facing and the search for a solution to prevent the extinction of the honeybee.

In this study 59 local beekeepers participated in the survey, sharing their difficulties, explaining what the honeybees are

Save the Bees

Thomas Camilleri Mallia

experiencing and suggesting solutions to prevent a further

eradication of the honeybee population. Two distinctive interviews were conducted, one with the Malta Beekeepers Association in order to have an understanding of their work and the promotion of the local apiculture industry, whilst supporting the local beekeepers. The other interview was carried out with a representative from the Smart Bees project, who aims to safeguard the Maltese honeybee so that it does not lose its unique characteristics.

With the data collected the author revealed various problems deriving from diseases, pests, vandalism, financial difficulties, climate change, land development and the European Union funding system which do not favour the Maltese Beekeepers due to the small scale of the units in Malta. The beekeepers propose various solutions which if applied in the near future can improve the apiculture industry and safeguard the Maltese honeybee population.

