



NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS (NTFP)

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Abstract

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs), (also known as Minor Forest Produce⁰¹ special, non-wood, minor, alternative and secondary forest products, are useful substances, materials and/or commodities obtained from forests which do not require harvesting (logging) trees. They include game animals, fur-bearers, nuts, seeds, berries, mushrooms, oils, foliage, medicinal plants, peat, fuel-wood, fish, spices and forage.² Research on NTFPs have focused on their co modifiability for rural incomes and markets, as an expression of traditional knowledge or as a livelihood option for rural household needs, and, as a key component of sustainable forest management and conservation strategies. All research promotes forest products as valuable commodities and tools that can promote the conservation of forests. "Non-timber forest products" (NTFPs) are any product or service other than timber that is produced in forests. They include fruits and nuts, vegetables, fish and game, medicinal plants, resins, essences and a range of barks and fibers such as bamboo, rattans, and a host of other palms and grasses.

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There is a wide variety of NTFPs, including mushrooms, huckleberries, ferns, transplants, seed cones, piñon seeds, tree nuts, moss, maple syrup, cork, cinnamon, rubber, tree oils and resins, and ginseng. **The United Kingdom's Forestry Commission defines NTFPs as "Any biological resources found in woodlands except timber,"³** and Forest Harvest, part of the Reforesting Scotland project, defines them as "materials supplied by woodlands - except the conventional harvest of timber."⁴ These definitions include wild and managed game, fish and insects.⁵ NTFPs are commonly grouped into categories such as floral greens, decorative, medicinal plants, foods, flavors and fragrances, fibers, and saps and resins. Other terms similar to NTFPs include special, non-wood, minor, alternative and secondary forest products. NTFPs in particular highlight forest products which are of value to local people and communities but have been overlooked in the wake of forest management priorities (for example, timber production and animal forage). In recent decades, interest has grown in using NTFPs as alternatives or supplements to forest management practices. In some forest types, under the right political and social conditions, forests can be managed to increase NTFP diversity and, consequently, to increase biodiversity and potentially economic diversity. Black truffle cultivation in the Mediterranean area is a good example of a high profitability when well managed.

Economic importance of Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) In India

The harvest of NTFPs remains widespread throughout the world. People from a wide range of socio-economic, geographical and cultural contexts harvest NTFPs for a number of purposes, including but not limited to: household subsistence, maintenance of cultural and familial traditions, spiritual fulfillment as well as physical and emotional well-being, house heating and cooking, animal feeding, indigenous medicine and healing, scientific learning and income.⁵ Other terms synonymous with harvesting include *wild-crafting*, *gathering*, *collecting* and *foraging*. NTFPs also serve as raw materials for industries ranging from large-scale floral greens



suppliers and pharmaceutical companies to micro-enterprises centred upon a wide variety of activities (such as basket-making, woodcarving and the harvest and processing of various medicinal plants).

1. Encourages the foreign earnings of a host country
2. Creating employability to the surrounding people of the surrounding areas .
3. Providing live hood facilities to the dependent people of the areas.
4. Fulfilling the needs and requirements of the people.
5. Non-Forestry Products are valuable and creating commercial value for those products and generating income to the workers.
6. Creating value demand for rare available products
7. Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are quality as well quantitative in terms of usefulness, durability, comfort ability and applicability.
8. As a livelihood option for rural household needs, and, finally, as a key component of sustainable forest management and conservation strategies.

Problems encountered with development of .Non-timber forest products (NTFPS):

Especially in Indian context there is special attention of government of India towards for growth, development for Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and also formulating various policies, programmes under the coordination of International, statewide, environment protection associations to protect the Non-timber forest products .but, unfortunately there are so many problems encountered .Voilation of rules and regulations framed by the government of India .

1. Exporting the products for the purpose of increasing the foreign revenues in to national exchequer.
2. Exploitation of labor who are mainly dependent on cultivation of Non-timber forest products .
3. Lack of coordination between concerned authorities for the implementation of policies .
4. Due to liberisation, foreign stock holders entered into Indian market and converted into commercialization markets.
5. International Markets demand for Non-timber forest products mainly focus on Ecological environment.
6. International agreements, collaborations are common among the worldwide countries. But in implementation stage , it is not successfully executed for the benefits of the bounded parties.
7. It is difficult to estimate the contribution of NTFPs to national or regional economies as there is a lack of broad-based systems for tracking the combined value of the hundreds of products that make up various NTFP industries.
8. Their economic, cultural and ecological value, when considered in aggregate, makes managing NTFPs an important component of sustainable forest management and the conservation of biological and cultural diversity.

Suggestions

CIFOR has been working to understand the importance of forest products in conservation and economic development. Its research focuses on the broader aspects of NTFPs, including their collection, use and trade, leading to a better understanding of how NTFPs can reduce poverty. CIFOR's NTFP research directly benefits the communities it works with by increasing local understanding of markets and the role of policy. CIFOR is also developing ways to communicate research findings to lay audiences.

1. protection of Non-timber forest products is drafted as theme of the government and circulating them to the concerned authorities at state level, country level and make necessary arrangements for
2. keep in touch with the Ministry of Agriculture, forestry and Environmental protection and state government , pollution boards, NGOS to plan, implement, review and monitoring the issues from time to time.



3. Contribution of the colleges, universities, educational institutions, voluntary associations, environmental clubs are incorporated as members of the committee to take proper decisions.
4. Legislative Procedures are formulated for classification and Allocation of forests among central, state governments for easy implementation of decisions.
5. Reservation of forests with an object of economic and wealth cause to the surrounding dependent people on forests.

Conclusion

Research on NTFPs have focused on three perspectives: NTFPs as a commodity with a focus on rural incomes and markets, as an expression of traditional knowledge or as a livelihood option for rural household needs, and, finally, as a key component of sustainable forest management and conservation strategies. These perspectives promote forest products as valuable commodities and important tools that can promote the conservation of forests. In some contexts, the gathering and use of NTFPs can be a mechanism for poverty alleviation and local development. Future research needs to look at the use of NTFPs in the home, the role of forests in nutrition and health, land tenure change, the increasing move by small communities to monetary-based economies and the cultural importance of NTFPs. Their economic, cultural and ecological value, when considered in aggregate, makes managing NTFPs an important component of sustainable forest management and the conservation of biological and cultural diversity.

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