



SURVEY AND DOCUMENTATION OF WOOD UTILIZATION PATTERN IN SIDDAPUR TALUK, UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT OF WESTERN GHAT REGION

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ABSTRACT: Wood is widely used in different applications from development of civilization. The study of consumption pattern of wood has a curious scope. In-depth analysis of these patterns can shed light on various underestimated scenarios of wood consumption and usage trends. The present study was undertaken to assess the pattern of wood utilization in Siddapur Taluka, (Heggarani, Hutgar and Hukli villages), Uttara Kannada district of Western Ghat region. Information was collected from different categories of families in a selected village by participatory discussion method through the questioner survey. A total of 22 tree species belonging to 14 families used by the local people for different purpose was documented. The major wood species utilized were *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Calophyllum apetalum*, *Acacia auriculiformis*, *Hopea ponga* and *Calopyllum inophyllum* and least used are *Poeciloneuron indicum* and *Gmelina arborea*. The major timber species utilized by local people are falling under families of Clusiaceae, Combretaceae, Verbenaceae, Mimosaceae, Lythraceae and Fabaceae. Among different species *Pterocarpus marsupium* (Six), *Tectona grandis* (Four) and *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Lagerstroemia lanceolata*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Calophyllum inophyllum* (Three) were used for making more number of products as compare to other species. Hence promotion of these species in agroforestry systems and establishment of monoculture plantations to meet the wood requirement and also to reduce the pressure on natural forests is very crucial step in these villages.

Key Words: Agroforestry, Wood, Questioner survey, Utilization, Western Ghat.

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Wood as raw material has offered precious services to man from time of his appearance on earth, and has decisively contributed to his survival and to the development of civilization. In Prehistoric times man relied on wood for survival, for shelter, weapons, and for fire to cook his food and warm himself. Later, when he grasped the significance of its ability to float, and followed this with invention of the wheel, he relied on wood as the means of transportation over the land and across large bodies of water (Tsoumis, 1968). Wood is one of the oldest source of energy and commonest service material known to man, and has been used for over 5,00,000 years (Sharpe, 1976). The list of present uses of wood is very long. Aside from lumber for construction and furniture, poles, railroad ties, mine and bridge timbers and other common products, wood is manufactured into veneer and glued-often with water proof adhesives- to produce plywood, laminated constructions and particle board. Wood is the raw material for paper and paperboard, rayon and cellulose acetate yarns, cellophane, photographic films, explosives, synthetic sponges, lacquers, plastics, ethyl alcohol, methanol, acetic acid, molasses, nutritional

yeast, glucose, synthetic vanillin and many other derived products.

Factors such as family size, cost of wood, season, type of cooking device, alternative sources and type of wood determine the level of consumption pattern of wood (Hamed, 1990). Consumption pattern of wood has a curious scope for detailed study. In-depth analysis of these patterns can shed light on various underestimated scenarios of wood consumption and usage trends. Therefore, the present study was aimed to create baseline information of different timber species and purposes for which wood is used by the local people.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The study was carried out in Siddapur taluk *i.e.*, located at 14° 20' 27.6" N & 74° 53' 23.94" E in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka (India). It has an average elevation of 564 meters (1850 feet), and is situated in the heart of the Western Ghats (Fig.1). Siddapur taluk is embedded different forest types with rich biodiversity. Most of the people living in village depend on forests for food, fuel wood, shelter *etc.* But information regarding utilization of wood / timber for various purposes is very limited.