



COLLECTION, HARVESTING, PROCESSING AND VALUE ADDITION OF NTFPS: A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT: Non-Timber/Non-Wood Forest Produces (NWFP or NTFP), known as Minor Forest Produces (MFP), includes all the products obtained from forest, other than timber. In several cases where, harvesting of timber has been hindered due to the destruction of environmental conditions and policy issues. NTFPs play a significant economic role in rural peoples. It includes medicinal plants, gums, oils, fats, resins, oleo-resins, spices, drugs, tannins, insecticides, dyes, bamboos, canes, fibres, flosses, grasses, tendu leaves, animal products, and edible plants, etc. It is expected that in India there is 275 million rural people, dependent on minor forest produces for their survival and livelihoods. NTFPs contribute about 20% to 40% annual income of forest dwellers in which is most of the landless people with a prominent population of tribals. Incomes from NTFP assortment, handling, and selling hold the key to the socio-economic growth of communities which is mainly dependent on forests and its resources. The bulk of NTFPs sold by collectors/harvesters did not even get basic value of the products because most of the NTFP are sold in unprocessed form. These are sold in raw form to small traders and middlemen who frequently visit the villagers and buy the product from the collectors. Sometimes collectors carry the produce for sale to the nearby marketplaces and trade with other household goods such as rice, kerosene, salt, cloth and sell the product directly to the market without processing. Grading of the produce is one of the simplest steps for value-addition process. Collective marketing approach of MFPs based interference can help to the forest dependent communities with awareness, and procedures to work as a un-exploitative network for the selling of products and thus procure higher incomes and offer a solid incentive to forest dwellers for taking more responsibility for management of forest and utilization of forest resources.

Keywords: Forest management, livelihood, NTFPs, processing, value addition

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INTRODUCTION

NTFPs are known to create opportunities in developing entrepreneurial jobs in the poorest rural communities. Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) were formerly called as 'Minor Forest Produce' because of their minor role in the forest revenue of the state governments compared with that from timber (Prasad *et al.*, 1999). For local people, however, such products were always significant as they provided a year-round source of livelihood. Forest products consisting of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from the forest, other woodlands, and trees outside forests (12th

5-year plan report 2017). They include fruits and nuts, vegetables, medicinal plants, gum and resins, essences, bamboo, rattans, and palms; fibers and flosses, grasses, leaves, seeds, mushrooms, honey, and lac, etc. NTFP is known to create chances in developing entrepreneurial jobs in the poorest rural communities (Zubair *et al.*, 2020). Forest dwellers who depend on NTFPs for their living are usually poorly systematized and facing great trouble in marketing MFPs even at local markets. However, it needs market expertise and an institutional and administrative setup that is far from their reach. In India, NTFPs generate an income equal to 2.7 billion US\$ per