

**Policy Prescriptions for
Sustainable Management of
Non-Timber Forest Produces
in the Central Indian States:
Recommendations of Multistakeholders' Consultations**

2004-05

RCDC CENTRE FOR FORESTRY AND GOVERNANCE



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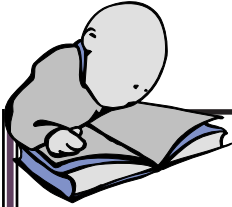
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PREFACE

It was during 2001-2003, RCDC was engaged in studying the NTFP policy and trade issues in the adjoining states of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh and which provided rudimentary thoughts about the regional NTFP policy framework. These independent state studies focused on policies, collection and harvesting practices, processing and value addition, product development, prices, markets, trade routes, traders, processing industries etc. While undertaking the State studies, some striking similarities with regard to management and trade of NTFP was noticed across the States. Some important among them are; for the purpose of trade the regional movement of forest produces with different policies, rules and control mechanisms across the states, have been responsible for consistently reducing returns to all the stakeholders. Though occasional policy reforms introduced at the State level, market remained as elusive as ever for the primary collectors. They were still far away from getting the right prices as different areas and States have different prices for the same produce of similar quality. There was no commonality either with regard to definition or categorisation of NTFP. The existing definitions are guided more by convenience than by science or usage.

The driving force behind the regional policy argument has been the paradox of 'poverty amidst plenty'. The Central Indian states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa have large contiguous forest area with maximum concentration of primitive tribes dependent on forests who at the same time constitute the largest poverty pocket of the country - invariably affected by diverse and varied resource management policies. The study helped evolution of an argument that an area which has such colossal forest resources, with high concentration of forest dependent populace, industries and markets, commonality of approach and policy framework across the States could certainly address issues relating to management of non-timber forest produces, especially NTFP as a sustainable livelihood option for millions residing in and around forests. Subsequently, the argument was developed through our publications and interactions with researchers, traders, NGOs, Forest Department and strangely there was an acceptance of the concept, though vague apprehensions were raised regarding its operating structure.

These initial and disjointed thinking on a unified policy approach culminated into a workshop in April 2004 in Bhubaneswar, which discussed the concept. Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh were the first states that immediately stuck onto the idea of the regional policy. Immediately in November 2004, Chhattisgarh MFP Federation organised the second of such workshop at Raipur with participants from six Central Indian states to develop a framework for the regional policy. The idea had more buyers now. Subsequently, in order to concretize the policy framework, NIRD and GCC hosted the third regional workshop in Hyderabad in June 2005.

While conceptualising, designing and organising the consultations, we have received tremendous support from some people and institutions. Two key people among them but for whom the regional process would have just remained a far fetched dream are; Mr.A.K.Singh, MD, CGMFP Federation, Chhattisgarh, Mr. A.Vidyasagar, MD, GCC, Andhra Pradesh. We express our deep sense of gratitude by sincerely acknowledging their contributions and constant support for carrying forward the recommendations to the policy makers at the Central Government level. We also express our sincere thanks to all those directly and indirectly contributed to the process. Hope the debates and discussions so initiated gives desired results.

RCDC Centre for Forestry and Governance

Glossary

CG MFPPF	:	Chhattisgarh Minor Forest Produce Federation
FDC	:	Forest Development Corporation
FSI	:	Forest Survey of India
GCC	:	Girijan Cooperative Corporation
ICFRE	:	Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
IIFM	:	Indian Institute of Forest Management
IPR	:	Intellectual Property Rights
ISMH	:	Indian System Medicine and Homoeopathy
JFM	:	Joint Forest Management
JFMC	:	Joint Forest Management Committee
LIC	:	Life Insurance Corporation
MFP	:	Minor Forest Produce
MIS	:	Management Information System
MP MFPPF	:	Madhya Pradesh Minor Forest Produce Federation
NABARD	:	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NAFED	:	National Agricultural Produce Cooperative Marketing Federation
NIRD	:	National Institute of Rural Development
NMPB	:	National Medicinal Plants Board
NTFP	:	Non Timber Forest Produce
NWFP	:	Non Wood Forest Produce
OFD	:	Orissa Forest Department
PCS	:	Primary Cooperative Society
PESA	:	Provisions of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act
PFA	:	Prevention of Food Adulteration
PRI	:	Panchayati Raj Institution
R & D	:	Research & Development
RCDC	:	Regional Centre for Development Cooperation
SFRI	:	State Forest Research Institute
SGRY	:	Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojna
SGSY	:	Sampoorna Grameen Swarojgar Yojna
SHG	:	Self Help Group
SIRD	:	State Institute for Rural Development
SMPB	:	State Medicinal Plants Board
TDCC	:	Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation
TFRI	:	Tropical Forest Research Institute
TP	:	Transit Pass
TRIFED	:	Tribal Development Cooperative Marketing Federation of India



Background to the Consultative Process

I. Background

Forest plays an important role in environmental and economic sustainability. It provides numerous goods and services and maintains life support systems essential for life on earth. Nearly 23 per cent of the geographical area of the country is recorded forest area whereas FSI survey and reports state that 20 per cent of the geographical area is under forest. Though forest contributes around 2 per cent of the GDP of the country, it bears the pressure of 40 per cent of energy and 30 per cent of fodder requirements in addition to the timber and NTFP needs of the local people and the market. The annual fuel wood requirement of the country is 270 million tonnes and nearly half of it comes from forest. Similarly, the fodder and timber requirements are 280 million tonnes and 12 million cubic meters respectively.

It is estimated that out of 260 million people that live below poverty line, more than 100 million are partially or wholly dependent on forest resources for their livelihood, which includes more than 70 million tribals. A large majority of people living close to the forests depend on forest produces, both timber and non-timber, for their

CHAPTER - I

Table 1: Forest fringe villages and their population

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total number of villages	Villages having forest		
			Number	Forest Area (ha)	Population
1	Andhra Pradesh	26,586	5,080	2,566,842	10,674,334
2	Bihar including Jharkhand	67,513	17,044	2,502,137	11,205,120
3	Madhya Pradesh including Chhatisgarh	71,526	29,294	6,715,840	19,953,453
4	Maharashtra	40,412	15,694	3,165,387	19,043,898
5	Orissa	46,989	29,302	1,779,953	15,934,768
	Total	253,026	96,414	16,730,159	76,811,573

Source: Forest Survey of India.

subsistence and for cash income to augment their meagre earnings. Though the contribution of the forests to the national economy is minimal, its share in the local economy is ranked next only to agriculture especially in the forested belts of Central India. The population living in forest fringe villages of Central Indian states have been presented below. It is believed that most of these people subsist on forest produces and forestry as a land use.

Recognising the fact that the livelihood of tribals are fully or partially dependent on forest, the National Forest Policy (NFP), 1988 emphasised close association of tribals with protection, preservation and development of forests and envisaged their customary rights in forests. The policy enunciated “the holders of customary rights and concessions in forest areas should be motivated to identify themselves with protection and development of forests from which they derive benefits. The rights and concessions from forests should primarily be for the bonafide use of communities living within and around forest areas, specially the tribals.” The policy further states, “the life of tribals and other poor living within and near forests revolves around forests. The rights and concessions enjoyed by them should be fully protected. Their domestic requirements of fuel wood, fodder, minor forest produce and construction timber should be the first charge on forest produce. Similar consideration should be given to scheduled caste and other poor living near forest.” The policy became a major instrument for the change in forest management and it opened the path to involve local communities in forest management, though similar efforts were not taken while implementing the policy in the context of management and trade of NTFP/MFP.

The twenty-ninth report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes commenting on the development process adopted in the country says, “in the new frame, the symbiotic relationship between forest and forest dwellers was not recognised and the forest became the property of the state. After the state acquired monopoly rights over forest, a formal system was established for their management which gradually became increasingly comprehensive and also very strong. The biggest irony of this change was that the forest dweller who has a life long relationship with the forest – which are their very homes, their religion, their culture and everything- was conspicuous by its absence in that frame”. Regarding management of minor forest produces, the report says “the rights presently claimed by the government on MFP even with reference to the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, are not legal and royalty levied thereon is unethical”.

Tall claims are being made on development of tribals and their livelihood security based on natural resources but the reality is far

from what it always stated. Tenth five year plan talks of “a broader livelihood approach, covering productive capacity, institutional and legal structures, market access and tenure, must be adopted that puts forests into broader context of rural development.” It further adds “ the fragile ecosystems such as coastal areas (mangroves and coral reefs), hills and mountains, wetlands, shifting cultivation areas, bio-diversity hotspots should be properly managed to safeguard the livelihood of millions of people.” It is evident that the natural resources are to be protected and managed both for environmental conservation and livelihood of the resource dependent population.

The draft national policy on tribals mandates that the rights of tribals in protection, regeneration and collection of minor forest produces should be recognised and institutional arrangements should be made for marketing such produces. A very recent letter of Ministry of Environment and Forests dated 21st December 2004 on traditional rights of tribals on forest lands highlights, “The central government is convinced that the difficulty in distinguishing between genuine tribals/forest dwellers and ineligible encroachers by the state governments / UT administration is the main cause of the problems of tribals. Therefore, some kind of interim measures are necessary to safeguard the interests of the tribals and forest dwellers who have been living in forests since long, and whose disputed claims are yet to be settled”. In many forest areas of the country, which are especially protected areas, the tribals and other forest dwellers have been denied of extraction of NTFP, which is an important livelihood option of theirs. In these areas the contribution of NTFP to family income ranges between 50-70 percent (especially referring to the studies undertaken on dependencies on forest produces in selected protected areas of Orissa). In other forest areas of the state and the neighbouring states such as Chhatisgarh, MP etc, the income from NTFP ranges between 10-55 per cent of the household income depending on the availability of forest and forest produces. One has to keep in mind that the price, the primary collectors get from NTFP, is much lower than the real value of the produce in the market.

2. Issues and challenges in NWFP management and trade

All the above documents have well recognised the link between the tribals and the forests but this has not been properly incorporated in the legal doctrine, programmes and practices. The result is that the tribals do not have access or control over the forest resources that is right under their nose. Many developmental activities started in the forest gradually squeezing the rights of the tribal people. Provisions of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996, commonly known as PESA restored primary control of Gram Sabha over natural resources and clearly endowed Gram Sabha the ownership right

Many developmental activities started in the forest gradually squeezing the rights of the tribals.

over minor forest produce. But nothing much has been done so far empowering them to deal with procurement, processing and market development. Though after enactment of the PESA most of the states in scheduled areas have amended their state acts to confer the ownership right over minor forest produces to panchayats, there is hardly any significant improvement in the livelihoods of the poor forest dwellers, mainly the tribals. Inadequate efforts have been taken by the state governments to build up the capacity of the Gram Sabha/Panchayat and to provide them a facilitating environment to exercise ownership and managerial rights over NTFP. But what it triggered off was the large-scale formation of primary collectors federations getting into processing and trade facilitated by NGOs. But the problem has been the second step in the process, i.e., securing better market through proper market promotion initiatives, which has remained as a major bottleneck. If the trade is suffering today it is because of poor market promotion and development. In states where PESA is in force, the Government sheds its responsibilities by saying that the market or the panchayats would decide the fate of the trade. There is no concerted effort by the Government for any change in the present trade scenario.

Though most of the policies, laws and rules of government highlight the restoration of forest based livelihood of tribal and other forest dwelling communities through proper management of NTFP, there is dearth of guidelines and practices. The trade of important NTFP is still in the hands of the State and for rest NTFP there is still monopolistic trade scenario. The market has remained complex, exploitative and inaccessible for the primary producers and the returns to them have always been at the lowest. There is no clear mandate for the institutions involved in the process of procurement and trade of NTFP especially for developing markets for NTFP. The market promotion agencies of the states barring few don't really give much emphasis to procurement, product development and marketing. Most of their efforts get limited to nationalised forest produces. In case of other NTFP when there is a demand or forward trading, these agencies go for procurement of selected or targeted NTFP.

Definition of NTFP:

There is no clear-cut definition of NTFP or MFP that transcends state boundaries, whatever little definitions have been provided by the Government/department are based on convenience rather than on any scientific understanding. The differences in policies with regard to NTFP start with the very definition of the term.

Box 1: Definition of NTFP in different states

MP/Chhattisgarh	<p>Chhattisgarh is the only state to have come up with a reasonably clear definition of NTFP (or MFP) in 1998 as “non-timber forest produce that can be harvested on a non-destructive basis and will not include minerals and wild animals or their derivatives”. The state has nationalized four items, while all other NTFP can be gathered and traded freely.</p>
Orissa	<p>In Orissa, 85 items have been identified as NTFP; out of which 68 items have been termed as MFPs. Ownership over these 68 items (MFPs) have been transferred to Gram Panchayats. The rest have been divided into nationalized items and lease barred items. The lease barred items are mostly gums, barks, and resins, leaves that are banned or allowed selective extraction.</p>
Andhra Pradesh	<p>The AP NTFP Act of 1971 defined MFP as any forest produce other than timber, trees (excluding bamboos) and charcoal, specified in the schedule</p> <p>In AP, Tendu patta (Kendu leaf) is nationalized. All other produces of commercial importance have been put under a specified list to be sold to a monopoly buyer.</p>
Jharkhand	<p>There is no legal definition of MFP in Jharkhand. However the Bihar Forest Rules defines bamboo, Sabai grass, Kendu leaves etc. as MFP.</p> <p>Produces except the ones nationalised are free for trading.</p>
Maharashtra	<p>In Maharashtra, there are two nationalized items – Tendu leaves and Apta leaves. 33 items have been defined as MFP and handed over to Gram Panchayats but TDC has the purchase rights.</p>

A possible definition of NTFP

Minor forest produces include all forest produces other than timber, poles and charcoal harvested on a non-destructible manner or sustainable manner or in a manner which does not affect the growth of the particular plant species or animal species or the natural regeneration of plant species. MFP may include bamboo, kendu/ tendu leaf, sal seeds and other oil seeds, fruits, barks, grasses, fibres, flosses, gums and resins, dyes, roots, leaves, creepers, wood oils, flowers, honey, all medicinal plants and other animal derivatives etc.

The two common classifications of NTFP are nationalized and non-nationalized. The difference of categorization of the same produce in two neighboring states promotes illegal interstate trade. Similarly the taxation/royalty system for NTFP is not uniform across the region, which often discourage the traders and marketing agencies for fair trade. In Chhattisgarh and MP, the traders are required to pay 2% mandi tax and 4% commercial tax if trading is within the state. For trading outside the state purchaser has to obtain a C-Form from the sales tax office and give it to the seller. Even for the transit of free produces, the concerned forest official has to issue a Transit Permit when it moves from one place to another. But once a produce is processed, there is no need for a transit pass. In AP 'Forest produce in transit' includes forest produce found stored in any place in margin of any public road or cart track or foot-path whether or not

Box 2: Policies at a glance

Nationalised Produces	Andhra Pradesh	MP	Chhattisgarh	Jharkhand	Orissa	Maharashtra
	Bamboo and KL. 24 produces including Gums, Tamarind, Mahua Leaves etc. are pro-cured and marketed by GCC	Bamboo, KL, Harra, Gums and Sal Seed.	Bamboo, KL, Harra, Gums and Sal Seed.	Bamboo, KL, Sal Seed, Mahua Seed, Mahul Leaves and Harra.	Bamboo, KL and Sal Seed	Tendu leaf and Apta leaf
National-ization of KL - year	1971	1964	1973	1973	1973	1969

Nationalization of Sal Seed - Year	Not available	1975	1975	1978	1983	-
State Institutions	FD, APFDC, GCC	MPMFP Federation	CGMFP Federation	JFDC, TCDC, Lac and Tassar	FD, OFDC, TDCC, ORMAS	Maharashtra TDC
Price fixation	Nationalised - state government. GCC - 24 items	Nationalised - the state government and others - no mechanism for price fixation.	Nationalised - the state government and others - no mechanism for price fixation.	Co-operatives Nationalised - the state government and others - no mechanism for price fixation.	Nationalised - the state government and 68 MFP items - panchayat samiti	

loaded in carts or other vehicles and forest produce found in any river, canal or water course whether in rafts or not. No forest produce shall be moved into or from or within the State by land or water, unless such produce is accompanied by a permit therefore issued under the rule and produced for check immediately on demand. Bihar Timber and other Forest Produce Transit Rules (TR), 1973 provides that no person can either export or import timber, firewood, charcoal, Katha and other specified NTFPs, without written permit issued by competent Forest Officer containing prescribed particulars. As such there is no local tax to be paid by the primary collector and all the tax including royalty has to be borne by the trader and manufacturer. In Orissa, the March 2000 NTFP policy abolished the transit permit system and royalty inside the state. 68 items have been handed over to GPs and the Panchayat Samitis are fixing the minimum procurement prices of these items.

It is evident from the above box that the price fixation of non-nationalised NTFP is a neglected area. There is no organised initiative for fixation of price in many states and even if price is fixed like the case in Orissa, no efforts are being made to ensure payment of the minimum procurement of price.

The regulatory as well as the facilitating mechanisms of the government have failed to ensure better prices to the primary collectors. Lack of proper database and single window service make it difficult for primary stakeholders to develop products as well as

market for these products. Due to unavailability of organized marketing set up like mandi, up-mandi and haat bazaar, proper trading environment in most places couldn't be established. Exemplary efforts have been made by some of the states like Chhatisgarh and Madhya Pradesh to set up mandi for NTFP but now there is no promotional/ protection measure for maximizing the returns to the primary collectors. Both in Chhatisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, procurement of nationalized forest produces is being done through Primary Cooperative Societies. The profit for tendu leaf is being distributed among these cooperatives i.e. 70 per cent to be distributed among the members, 15 per cent for infrastructure development and rest 15 per cent is to be spent on forestry development.

High prices of certain NTFP sometimes lead to unsustainable harvesting methods such as uprooting, cutting the trees, removing the barks etc, which jeopardize the survival of the plant and its future production. Some remarkable work has been done by different agencies including GCC. It has trained Gum Karaya pickers on sustainable harvesting and value addition, which has reduced the destruction of Gum Kareya trees and also increased the market price of gums by manifolds. In MP and Chhatisgarh the traders have set up number of processing units and the quality consciousness among the primary collectors and producers has gone significantly. Similarly many efforts have been made in these states for commercial cultivation of important medicinal species in order to reduce the pressure from the natural forest and maintain quality production.

II. Consultative process for a regional approach to formulation of NWFP policy

The need for initiating thinking on a regional approach arose out of some strategic geographical reasons. Firstly, there is a contiguous rich forest patch from eastern Maharastra to western Orissa, which is home to a majority of tribals of the country in terms of sheer number and ethnic types. Nearly 60% of the forest fringe villages of the country are located in this region with a population of about 70 million. Needless to mention that these forest dwelling populace, who are mostly tribals are dependent on forest produces for livelihood. Ironically, a good majority of people in this area fall below poverty line as returns from agriculture and other livelihood options are limited. The area has great potentiality for ensuring livelihood security through interventions in natural resources management focusing on forest and NTFP. But due to lack of a comprehensive focus and uncoordinated efforts the forest has not been able to provide the desired livelihood support that it could. Policy and the management of NTFP have been particularly responsible for not

only the impoverishment of people but also alienation of people from forests. Major parts of these states also come under the Schedule V Areas, where the rights of the tribal communities over minor forest produces have been well recognised but hardly there are efforts for market development, product development, transfer of skills and technology and other back up supports to the tribal and forest dwelling communities to efficiently and effectively manage and trade MFP. Besides, the major NTFP trade centres, all major forest based industries, processing and research units, and traders are stationed in this area. Combination of all these factors has created a strong rationale for initiating an effort to form a NTFP trade zone in the area.

Bhubaneswar Consultation

Realising the need for a collective and regional intervention as one of the important options to augment returns to the primary collectors, RCDC initiated discussions with different stakeholders, especially the governments and state owned corporations dealing with NTFP on these issues. Based on their suggestions, a multistakeholders' consultation was organised in Bhubaneswar during 28-29 April 2004. The major issues across the region on important NTFP especially the nationalised ones were discussed and most of the participating organisations agreed for a collective process to facilitate changes in policies and practices, and share the information and experiences. The workshop categorically emphasised the need for an appropriate institutional framework to deal with the policies, programmes and practices. It was also highlighted that there is a great need for generation and dissemination of information on NTFP. There was an added focus on infrastructure development for value addition and marketing. One of the important outcomes of this consultation is the felt need for a unified policy approach across the Central Indian States.

Raipur Consultation

Chhatisgarh MFP Federation took a lead in following up the recommendations of the workshop. It organised an intensive consultation/regional workshop at Raipur on 3-4 November 2004. Participants from Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra etc presented the state of NTFP management and trade in their respective states. There were also representatives from Union ministries of tribal affairs, forests & environment, rural development and TRIFED. The workshop created scope for further debate on

- Major state level policy and management issues related to NTFP,
- Issues related to ownership rights in the backdrop of PESA,

-
- Processing and value addition of NTFP, marketing and sustainable management.

Hyderabad Consultation

In the Raipur workshop, Girijan Cooperative Corporation of Andhra Pradesh offered to carry forward the recommendations to come out with a concrete regional/national policy framework on NTFP. The Hyderabad workshop was organised by NIRD in collaboration with GCC and RCDC on 7-8 June 2005 at NIRD. Major areas of discussion were; a regional federation for market development and support to the forest dwellers, collaborative research and development for value addition of NTFP and transfer of skills and technology to the primary collectors and producers, mutual help and cooperation for growth and development of forest based industries and employment in Central India and minimum support price for NWFP and creation of fund for procurement and trade.



Bhubaneswar Consultation

The consultation on 'Policy and Institutional Reforms within Nationalised Non-Timber Forest Produces Operations: Options and Possibilities' was held at Bhubaneswar on the 28th & 29th April 2004. The consultation was inaugurated by Dr. G. B. Mukherjee, Principal Secretary to Government of Orissa, Department of Forests and Environment.

The idea behind bringing all engaged in the procurement and trade of NTFP to the workshop was to create an atmosphere where an opportunity is created to discuss mutual problems and find solutions. The stakeholders expressed their interest to discuss issues/challenges at length to improve the existing trade operations through sharing and getting exposed to different successful management models. Since the promulgation of the March 2000 NTFP policy in Orissa, there has been a lot of discussion on its successes and failures. The initial euphoria about handing over ownership rights to the Panchayats have later led to equally vociferous criticism from some quarters about the mismanagement of these forest produces leading to reduction of procurement price. The Forest Department has tried its might to put across the point that the 68 items were more efficiently managed by them than the Panchayats. In this blame game, everybody probably lost sight of three other important produces namely Kendu Leaves, Sal seeds, Bamboo that sustained greater number of people and also substantially contributed to the state revenue. The consultation intended to develop a procedure of future interaction regarding the design of essential reforms for effective management and better returns to the state and the people who are dependant on them.

CHAPTER - II

As mentioned, the objective of the workshop was to facilitate an interface between different stakeholders of nationalised NTFPs – primary collectors and their cooperatives, forest protection groups,

1. Major discuaaions/ discussants

Date	Topic	Presented by
28.04.04 Session - I - Bamboo	Policy and Operational Issues in Bamboo Sector Chattisgarh, Orissa, Opportunities of Bamboo as a resource, Operations and Issues, Need for Alternative Policy, Field realities, plight of bamboo artisans.	Dr.Arvind Anand Boaz, CCF, Chattisgarh FD Mr.Deepak Mohanty, CF, OFD Mr. A.K. Sharda, Vice President, JK Paper Mills, Raygada Mr. A. K. Pathak, DFO, Boudh Division, OFD

		Laxman Behera, President, Maa Mangala Beta Baunsa Samabaya Samiti Limited, Boudh, Orissa Ranjan Panda, Independent Researcher Ramakanta Patra, RCDC
28.04.04 Session - II - Kendu Leaf	Development of Tendu Leaf trade in Chhattisgarh, Tendu Patta Policy of Undivided Madhya Pradesh, KL trade in Orissa, KL Grant Issues in Orissa, KL wage issue, KL operation in Orissa	Mr. A.K. Singh, ED, CGMFPPF, Raipur. Ms. Ranu K. Bhogal, Bhopal. Mr. R. N. Sahoo, ACCF, OFD Mr. Swapneswar Baya, PR Deptt, Orissa. Mr. K. Sahoo, Dist. Forestry Forum, Bolangir. Boita Pradhan, Kendu Patra Tolali Mancha, Sundargarh, Orissa Mr. Subas Mishra, CF, OFD
29.04.04 Session - I Sal Seed	Sal seed procurement and trade in Orissa, ecological issues, Sal oil processing and sal fat trading,	Mr. A. K. Mohapatra, MD, TDCC, Orissa Mr. Vinod Kumar, OFDC Ltd. B. K. Swain, Silviculturist, Orissa FD. Mr. Y. R. Rao, Food, Fats and Fertilisers, AP. Mr. Sambhu Agrawal, Priti Oils, Sambalpur.
29.04.04 Session - II Institutional Mechanism	Institutional issues concerning CGMFPPF, Field issues relating to management of MFPs in Chattisgarh and AP, Structure, Function and Management of Forest Produces through GCC, KL Governance in Orissa, Institutions and Institutional Arrangements for NTFP in Jharkhand.	Mr. A. K. Singh, Chhattisgarh MFP Federation Ms. Kalabati & Iqbal, Chhattisgarh. Mr. P. Trinadha Rao, Laya, AP. Mr. A. Vidyasagar, MD, GCC, AP. Dr. R. M. Mallick, NKCDs, Orissa. Mr. Ashish Sharma, ECC, New Delhi

policy makers, traders and processing industries, NGOs, and researchers on issues pertaining to collection, processing and trade that would facilitate a debate on the complementary roles of all these stakeholders to optimise dividends thereof. Moreover, there was an effort to share and discuss the present as well as prospective institutional mechanisms of NTFP management in Orissa and neighbouring states facilitating deliberations on the need for a common policy approach across states.

II. Key Issues raised on NTFP Management and Trade

- The actual procurement of forest produces, especially the nationalised ones, is far below its potential due to various factors. Procurement of Bamboo and Sal seed have gone down while KL procurement has almost remained constant. Two major reasons for such low procurement have been low and untimely payment of procurement price and virtual non-procurement by marketing organisations.
- Similarly in case of many forest produces including the medicinal plants, it is a case of unsustainable exploitation without any regard for conservation & regeneration.
- The policies that guide the collection and trading of forest produces have been short term – especially in case of Orissa, where the level of political interference in policy making and dysfunctionality of institutions is the most.
- One of the biggest concerns is about maintaining long-term stake of the forest dwellers that affect conservation and sustainability of the forest resources as a whole. The primary issue is that of making the primary collectors owners rather than wage earners.
- Due to poor organization and networking among the primary collectors and the organisations fighting for their cause, the former pay a heavy price in terms of poor and uncertain returns from the trade of NTFP.
- The interface between different stakeholders has been inadequate. The buyer & seller interface is very complex – invariably loaded against the later.
- The issue of inter state cooperation and commonality of policy approach was discussed as one of the major issues to be taken up in the future.

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III. Recommendations

The participants of the workshop felt the need for a comprehensive and relatively stable policy and programme guidelines for sustainable management and trade of different NTFP including the nationalised ones. Another important thing that time and again surfaced during the deliberations is the need for a common policy and legal framework for NTFP procurement and trade across the region. In the process of policy formulation the primary collector of NTFP has to be looked as a producer, not as a procurer.

A commission needs to be set up to review the policies, acts and rules and come out with specific recommendations emphasizing

- The mismatch in authority and responsibility between the PRIs and FD needs to be sorted out in the new arrangement.
- In case of nationalised produces, the states in the region need to discuss among themselves and fix mutually agreeable price to avoid cross border smuggling.
- The State institutions have to play two predominant roles – that of a market promotion and price stabilising agency.

sustainability. The commission especially needs to look at the provisions of various policies and acts that are in conflict with each other as regards to collection and trade of forest produces (Orissa, Chhattisgarh and AP).

Some specific recommendations of the workshop have been presented below.

III.a Institutional Framework for both nationalised and non-nationalised NTFP and their functions

- The institutions responsible for the forest produces in the states of Orissa, AP, Chattisgarh and Jharkhand need to interact among them at a regular interval to bring in the regional perspective in the procurement and trade of NTFP. While the matters relating to policy can take its own time, operational aspects need to be sorted out within the present framework.
- There are many institutions at the village level that have become stakeholders in the procurement and trade of NTFP like SHGs, JFMCs, PRIs and Co-operatives. While the multiplicity of institutions have their own purpose there needs to be a linkage between them to properly manage and trade NTFP especially in case of non-nationalised NTFP and in case of nationalised ones they should work together to streamline the issues in sustainable harvesting and procurement.
- The mismatch in authority and responsibility between the PRIs and FD needs to be sorted out in the new arrangement. While PRIs need capacity building measures to handle the responsibility bestowed upon them, they also need to be given adequate authority to take penal measures against the defaulting traders.
- The state needs to ensure its commitment for livelihood and food security of NTFP gatherers. Guidelines and mechanism for price fixation of NTFPs is different in different state. But the

essential debate boils down to whether there should be minimum procurement price or support price, especially in case of non-nationalised produces. The need for an allocation of budget for ensuring the Minimum Support Price for NTFP has to be advocated with the State. The primary collectors have to have a role in price fixation – gradually they should control the pricing arrangement. In case of nationalised produces, the states in the region need to discuss among themselves and fix mutually agreeable price to avoid cross border smuggling.

- The State institutions have to play two predominant roles – that of a market promotion and



Plenary in progress :
Participants deliberating on the recommendations in Bhubaneswar Consultation

price stabilising agency. Some institutions do well and some face problems due to different problems relating to support by the respective state governments, capacity of staffs etc. These institutions should develop their annual plans for NTFP procurement and trade. Based on this plan the institutions working at the grassroots need to develop their NTFP management and trade plan. There should be convergence of efforts by the state institutions, PRIs, civil society organisations and traders/business houses both at the state and local levels. Conservation organisations and trade promotion organisations have to work together for sustainable management of NTFP.

- There is a need to remove the information gaps in the availability – type, source and quantity – and where from the demand for the forest produce comes and the associated price. Accordingly, surveys need to be carried out all over the state, which can start with a small number of produces. The State with its marketing agencies and the NGOs have a vital role in information generation and dissemination. A coordinated effort for market information and market study, market segmentation, linkages with industries/ users for marketing of NTFP needs to be carried out.
- Price is dependent on quality of produces. In order to enable the primary collectors to enhance returns from sale of NTFP, their capacities need to be built on Post Harvest Management and value addition. Standardisation of the produces needed to be developed and disseminated to the producers. The desired capacity building of the primary collectors and producers has to be undertaken by the state institutions, civil society organisation and also the traders.
- The primary producers and their cooperatives should have access to different testing and other facilities to standardise their produces. The state has to have a facility in certain locations (where the forest produces are available) to test the forest produces. This facility could in fact be added to where research institutions already exists. This is a growing requirement as the producers or their organisations get linked to manufacturers or exporters up in the value chain. Preliminary value addition centres are also required for increasing the returns to the primary producers. Here the civil society organisations can play a supplementary role to the government agencies in running demonstration centres and building up the capacity of the producers. One of the important aspects of demonstration centres has to be making the producers aware of the quality or standardisation parameters, as available.
- The state agencies can play a big role in providing access to storage place to the primary producers groups. There is a need for both kinds of storages – small decentralised ones at the village

▪ The primary producers should have access to different testing and other facilities to standardise their produces. The state has to have a facility in certain locations to test the forest produces.



Boita Pradhan of KL Pluckers' Union presenting on KL management in Orissa

or Panchayat level and then bigger one at the block or district level. There was a suggestion that the Phadi (for KL) can be made permanent structures and then handed over to the community to be utilised for a community centre, one of the functions could be to act as storing and preliminary value addition centres. It is clear that at present the state spends a significant amount every year in repair and maintenance of the Phadis, which also uses timber. There is alleged corruption in a large scale also. All this can be saved along with costs if a permanent structure is built. The other development

programmes running in the area can complement in finances required.

- Though certification is a debatable topic as of now, there needs to be further discussion and clarification as to how one can take benefit from the system. In this what needs to be sorted out is – who needs certification and who will provide certification. The FD needs to play a proactive role in initiating a debate and clarifying the role of different stakeholders and problem of certification.
- Another aspect that has been so far neglected but needs to be given increasing importance is advocating for local consumption of the forest produces.
- The institutional mechanism for dealing with forest produces has to have maximum stake of the producers. Accordingly, the governance structure has to be such that the primary collectors get the maximum representation in decision-making. The PCS model in vogue in MP and Chattisgarh could be adopted for enhancing returns to producers.
- Unlike Chattisgarh, Orissa does not have trading centres or Mandis or trade hubs to facilitate the trade of forest and agricultural produces. The state needs to play a proactive role here in developing the Mandis – the infrastructure as well as facilities and services required for the Mandis to operate.
- There is a need for setting up market promotion boards at the district level to ensure convergence of efforts by different stakeholders and provide single window delivery of services for sustainable management and trade of NTFP.

- The PCS model of MP and Chattisgarh could be adopted for enhancing returns to producers
- There is a need for setting up market promotion boards at the district level to ensure convergence of efforts by different stakeholders and provide single window delivery of services for sustainable management and trade of NTFP.

III.b Product specific recommendations Bamboo

- It is clear that bamboo has been rediscovered with the kind of attention that it has been receiving in the recent times. Bamboo Mission has been proposed to be created in the central level and there is plan to have one at the state level. It is hoped that the

missions will have the forest dwellers and artisans at the centre of their interventions. A long term policy needs to be developed for the region in consultation with all the stakeholders.

- The bamboo management has been paper industry centric till the recent past. While the stake of the paper industry is not ruled out, both the traditional and alternative uses of bamboo needs to be developed and promoted actively.
- The artisans and community dependent on bamboo have always got a raw deal with the management plans neglecting their concerns. The policy as well as the working plans needs to be reworked to suit the needs of the community. Things like Kardi harvesting or young bamboo requirements of artisans need to be properly addressed.
- Even when substitutions are coming up - hard wood in paper, the paper industry is ready to utilise bamboo with appropriate consultation with the FD regarding price. This needs to be taken care of at the earliest, as the stake of bamboo cutters also comes into play here. Above all, the bamboo needs to be utilised for the livelihood concerns as long as it does not affect the sustainability issue.
- Certain quarters feel that bamboo cultivation needs to be promoted that can supplement the natural harvest as well as fulfil the requirements of different stakeholders. There are two aspects that need to be taken care of in case of cultivation – to protect the interests of community and artisans by actively encouraging them to cultivate bamboo and then modifying harvesting rules, as bamboo is a nationalised produce. Bamboo plantations may be taken up in revenue forest areas devoid of forest growth.
- The paper and pulp industries should be motivated and influenced to take up bamboo planting in private holdings, particularly in the coastal areas, as they are doing for hard wood planting.
- A bamboo research and training centre can be set up for three states – Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand with field training centres in bamboo growing areas for making value added products and different planting exploitations, silvicultural techniques etc.
- Research should be encouraged for developing tools and simple machineries to work matured and dry bamboo by the artisans and accordingly the artisans should be trained.

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Kendu Leaf

- There are two broad areas of changes that are required – one at the policy and institutional level and the other at the operational



Mr. Deepak Mohanty, CF, OFD, presenting on Bamboo Policy Reforms in Orissa

- Appropriate technology needs to be developed for reducing the wastage of leaves used as cover and also for proper storage, handling and transportation of leaves.
- KL grant allocation and expenditure have been a major issue in Orissa. There is still a huge backlog of grant not yet utilised. KL grant is not used for development of forests and the pluckers.
- KL grant could be used to build infrastructures that would be utilised for storage/ handling/ processing of forest produces.

level. While policy and institutional changes would take care of the governance and ownership aspect, this will take time to affect and implement. But participants felt that even within the present institutional framework operational changes could be achieved.

- The quantity and quality of production can be enhanced in the states by increasing the pruning area. Existing efforts for sustainable management of the production base have to be studied and adequate action in this direction need to be taken up for addressing the sustainability issues and enhancing the quality production. The trends in production of KL from the forestland and private land have to be studied and accordingly strategies need to be developed for enhancing the KL production. Maximum transparency is required in operation when the amount for pruning is released.
- Appropriate technology needs to be developed for reducing the wastage of leaves used as cover and also for proper storage, handling and transportation of leaves.
- KL grant allocation and expenditure have been a major issue in Orissa. There is still a huge backlog of grant not yet utilised. KL grant is not used for development of forests and the pluckers. One of the suggestions was that KL grant could be used to build infrastructures that would be utilised for storage/ handling/ processing of forest produces. Some suggestions also made to follow the pattern of Chhattisgarh in distribution of KL grant.
- The other operational issues that could be addressed within the present system are – transparency in Phadi maintenance, management and operations, creation of permanent phadis, transparency in accounts, avoid delay in payment of wages to the KL pluckers, retaining the card with the plucker even after the end of the season, insurance coverage, etc.
- On an experimental basis, Orissa can propose to introduce the Co-operative – PCS Model followed by Chhattisgarh to deal with livelihood and decision making issues/space in PCS.

Sal seed

- The potential of Sal seed is high with good regeneration in the region; however, the collection is only a fraction of that. The state needs to address the problem at two levels –at the policy level and also at the level of trade and its utilisation.
- The Sal seed policy needs to have a long term perspective, especially in Orissa and it will be useful to have all the states having common operational principles. This will avoid

adhocism in the policy, operations as well as the competition among the states.

- This is a produce whose demand in the market seems to be widely fluctuating over the last few years. International market basically determines the pricing of sal seed/fat. The price needs to be fixed following the trends in international market and the minimum wage factor. All the states especially Orissa, Chhatisgarh and Jharkhand need to fix mutually agreed collection and sale prices.
- The ecological aspects of sal seed collection on the regeneration of sal forest need to be studied and sustainable harvesting, processing and storage of sal seed have to developed and popularised.
- Sal fat is not used in India by the chocolate industries as cocoa butter substitute because of legal restrictions for which all these sal seed producing states need to lobby with the Union Government for allowing chocolate industries to use sal fat, which would definitely increase the price of sal seed.
- Some of the operational issues that need to be addressed are; timely announcement of procurement price, pricing, organic storage, quick transport (pesticide residues are found from the sal seed/kernel), involvement of NGOs/ SHGs/ JFMCs in procurement in order to enhance the procurement.

Follow up of the workshop

As the need for a regional policy and perspective for NTFP was strongly felt by the participants, there has to be regular debates/discussions among different stakeholders both at the state and regional level on the common issues, principles and interventions. The state-owned corporations need to take the lead role in this context. After circulation of the workshop reports, the corporations have to organise workshops and meetings at the state level to come out with principles or framework for the policy/perspective. The civil society organisations have to carry out the debates at the local and district level to get the views of different stakeholders in order to formulate a long term policy in the region for addressing issues in sustainable management and trade of NTFP - both nationalised and non-nationalised.



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Raipur Consultation

The Regional Workshop on Non Wood Forest Produce including Medicinal, Aromatic and Dye plants, was organised by Chattisgarh MFP Federation on the 3-4 November 2004 at Raipur. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri. Ganesh ram Bhagat, Hon'ble Forest Minister of Chattisgarh.

CHAPTER - III

A large number of non- wood forest produce/ medicinal plants in huge quantity are being collected and sold in the local market by the collectors. The annual production and market rate of these produces are highly fluctuating. Unorganised trade of these non- wood forest produce and lack of value addition has led to the exploitation of the MFP gatherers leading to poverty. The State organisations involved in collection and trade of non- wood forest produce could not make appreciable dent in tackling the above situation due to financial and legal constraints, absence of focused national policy and programmes on non- wood forest produce including medicinal plants and lack of coordination among the neighbouring states.

The growing importance of non- wood forest produce/ medicinal plants in the rural economy necessitates an enabling Minor Forest Produce Policy, programmes and availability of funds to achieve the dual goals of sustainable Minor Forest Produce management and sustainable livelihood to the dependent communities.

This realization prompted the Chhattisgarh Minor Forest Produce (Trading & Development) Cooperative Federation Ltd., Raipur to organise a regional workshop at Raipur inviting key persons in

I. Major discussions/discussants

Date	Topic	Presented by
3.11.04 Session I Presentation by participant States, Institutes, NGOs & others	Non-wood Forest Produce- Scenario in M.P. NWFP & Medicinal Plants Work by Centre for People's Forestry. Non- wood Forest Produce Management NWFP Scenario in Andhra Pradesh A case study on TDCCs with special reference to Girijan Coop. Corporation	Shri P.K. Shukla, Director, State Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur. Dr. Suryakumari, Centre for People's Forestry, Secunderabad. Prof. Manmohan Yadav, Faculty, Indian Institute of Forest Manage- ment, Bhopal, M.P. Dr. Manoranjan Bhanja, CEO, A.P. Medicinal Plants Board, Hyderabad, Shri A. Vidya Sagar, Managing Director, Girijan Coop. Corpora- tion, Vishakhapatnam

<p>3.11.2004 Session II Presentation by Participant States & Others</p>	<p>NWFP including Medicinal Plants scenario in Chhattisgarh Non-wood Forest Produce in Maharashtra Challenges before the Tendu leaves trade in M.P. In pursuit of sustainable management of NWFPs Non-wood Forest Produce in Jharkhand, Forest Management Informa- tion System in Chhattisgarh NWFP trade and manage- ment in Orissa</p>	<p>Shri A.K. Singh, Managing Director, CGMFP Federation, Raipur (C.G.) Shri Alindra Chandra, CCF, Maharashtra Forest Department Shri V.R. Khare, MD & Shri R.K. Dave, Addl. MD, M.P. MFP Federa- tion, Bhopal Shri Narendra Kumar, ED, M.P. MFP Federation, Bhopal Shri Ramesh Zutshi, PCCF & Execu- tive Director, Waste Land Develop- ment, Jharkhand Shri K.C. Bebarta, Dy. CF, Forest Management Information System Division, Raipur Shri Manoj Pattnaik, RCDC, Bhubaneswar</p>
<p>4.11.04 Session III Presentation by Ministries of Govern- ment of India & others</p>	<p>PESA- Forest People PESA, Government and Minor Forest Produce Role of TRIFED in NWFP Sector</p> <p>Tribal forest Interface Role of Ministry of Tribal Affairs. National Medicinal Plants Board and Medicinal Plants in India. Medicinal Plants in India.</p> <p>Export Prospects & Potential of Minor Forest Products, Special Emphasis: Shellac & Lac Based Products.</p> <p>Research and Development in NWFP Sector. Non-wood Forest produce based Joint Forest Manage- ment in Good Forests</p>	<p>Shri S.S. Sahni, Director, PRIA, New Delhi. Shri A.P. Dubey, Director, Chhattisgarh State Institute of Ru- ral Development, Raipur. Mr. Kush Verma, Executive Direc- tor, TRIFED, New Delhi</p> <p>Shri P. Chatterji, Joint Secretary, Min- istry of Tribal Affairs Govt. of India. Shri R.B.S. Rawat, Chief Executive Director National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi, Dr. Madhav Karki, Regional Coordinator, MAPPA, International Develop- ment Research Centre (IDRC), New Delhi.</p> <p>Dr. Debjani Roy, Executive Director, Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata Dr. A. K. Pandey, TFRI, Jabalpur.</p> <p>Shri Mudit Kumar Singh, Asstt. Di- rector General, Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehra Dun</p>

decision making from different Ministries and States. The consultation provided a platform wherein people from different states of a region sat together to exchange views on core issues pertaining to non- wood forest produce in their respective states and ultimately on the larger inter-relationships between these bordering states with regard to conservation, collection and trade policies.

II. Key issues discussed

- Management, collection, trade practices, supporting policy, legal provisions and prevailing tax structure of all non- wood forest produce of different states and problems faced by them.
- Formulation of a draft National MFP policy /amendment of the existing forest policy 1988 and proposed programmes regarding the conservation, collection, processing and marketing of non- wood forest produce and financial provisions including trade subsidies.
- Resource assessment, management and non- destructive harvesting of MFP in working plans/ micro plans

Role of government of India especially of Ministries of Environment and Forests, Tribal Welfare, Health & Family Welfare (ISMH) & Commerce and Industries, TRIFED and National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation in conservation & trade

- of non- wood forest produce vis- a- vis role of JFM Committees, Panchayats & Cooperative societies of MFP.
- Uniformity in procurement price, sale procedures, tax rates, legal provisions and policy issues for the non- wood forest produce of the region.

III. Recommendations

1. Resource conservation

- Forest eco-systems are able to produce various kinds of NWFP over the years. The quality, quantity and type of produce vary from area to area depending upon the forest type, species composition, density, agro-climatic conditions and biotic pressure. Hence, the forest eco-systems can be broadly classified into three categories such as high, medium and low productive areas in terms of NWFP. There has been no systematic attempt to identify these areas under above classes. Hence, it is essential to identify the potential areas for future conservation and management.
- The experience of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh States in identifying potentially rich NWFP areas as “People’s Protected Areas” can be shared for drafting guidelines to

identify the same. The guidelines for identification of highly productive areas can be prepared and circulated in the next regional workshop for the benefit of other states and for a consensus on uniform guidelines.

- The identified areas based on above guidelines can be demarcated and digitized using GIS and remote sensing for developing thematic maps and future analysis.
- The priority species and their produce can be identified for these areas so as to regulate their yield and to initiate conservation efforts to protect threatened species and to improve the productivity.
- The results of efforts made by the Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in conservation of NWFP rich areas through “Peoples Protected Areas” can be shared in the next workshop. These guidelines can be incorporated in future working plans of the concerned states with suitable modifications according to the local conditions.

▪ The inventory techniques for NWFP are to be standardized for achieving the desired objectives. The experience of Chhattisgarh and SFRI, Jabalpur can be utilized in formulating the guidelines.

2. Resource Assessment

The main objectives of resource inventory in the above areas may be

- Identification of the species and preparation of inventory of both wood and non-wood forest produce.
- Identification of the target species for conservation and sustainable harvesting and estimating sustainable yield.
- The inventory techniques for NWFP are to be standardized for achieving the desired objectives. The experience of Chhattisgarh and SFRI, Jabalpur can be utilized in formulating the guidelines. The same can be documented and circulated in the next Workshop. The forest survey of India can take a lead role for drafting a uniform procedure for the country.
- Resource assessment through future working plans should cover following information.
 - ▶ Tree species, Growing Stock, Regeneration and listing of important medicinal herbs.
 - ▶ Field or NWFP from trees and their regeneration status.
 - ▶ Species wise growing stock of shrubs and herbs.
 - ▶ Total growing stock or NWFP from trees, shrubs and herbs.
 - ▶ Sustainable yield of NWFP adopting non-destructive harvesting methodologies.
- Since the resource inventory through working plans takes very long time, following RRA (Rapid Resource Inventory)

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- methodology is proposed for immediate implementation.
 - Compilation and analysis of existing resource inventory data of Working Plans.
 - Rapid Resource Inventory in entire state through systematic sampling procedure as is done in PPAs of Chhattisgarh
 - Compilation and Analysis of Transit Pass Information to know the collection and flow of forest produce.
 - Market Research regarding collection, trade and use of NWFP in the state.
 - Permanent sample plots are to be established in the potential areas and monitored every year for assessing the yield and harvesting rates of NWFP.
 - Each state should have a full-fledged MIS cell supported by GIS for assessment of production, potential, actual collection and sale of non-wood forest produce.

3. Non-Destructive Harvesting

Growing importance of NWFP has led to quality consciousness among the users. The primary collectors of forest produce are either unaware of good collection practices or unable to follow these due to short-term interests and pressures from petty traders. This has led to harvesting of NWFP in excess of sustained yield at an inappropriate time leading to poor quality of the produce and also degradation of forest resources. Even the primary processing of produces is not done on many occasions resulting in less income to the collectors. The following strategy is proposed to improve the quality of the NWFP collected and thereby ensure remunerative price to collector-

- The experiences of each state can be shared in regional workshops and exchange of knowledge and standardization can be ensured.
- Each state may select at least two species from each category for standardizing agro-technologies and promote cultivation

- Each participant state shall prioritize 10 most important NWFPs of tree origin and 10 most important NWFPs of shrub/ climber, herb origin.
- Identify the main production areas for the above produce.
- Each state may select at least two produce under each category for standardizing the good collection practices involving experts. This is proposed to be decided in the next Workshop.
- These collection practices can be implemented on pilot scale through capacity building of primary co-operative societies, joint forest management committees, self-help groups and primary collectors of the forest produce.
- The experiences of each state can be shared in regional workshops and exchange of knowledge and standardization can be ensured.
- The SFRI, Jabalpur can provide the research findings on this topic through a report in the next Workshop.

4. Cultivation

The production of minor forest produce is highly susceptible to climatic conditions. Lack of knowledge of standard agro technologies and market fluctuations for the NWFP species has led to poor yields, thereby, forcing the progressive farmers to do away with cultivation of medicinal and NWFP crops due to low profits. Hence, following strategy is proposed to be adopted in case of cultivation -

- Each participant state shall prioritize 5 most important NWFP of tree origin native to the state and 5 most important NWFP of shrub/ timber, herb origin, which are not available in the forest in sufficient quantity in the state to meet market demand. It is advised not to follow projected figures as floated through media or Internet.
- The SFRI, Jabalpur can provide the research findings on this topic through a report in the next Workshop.
Each state shall select different herbaceous medicinal plants to have state monopoly and to prevent market gluts.
- The SFRI, Jabalpur can provide the research findings on this topic through a report in the next Workshop.
Identify the potential areas in the state for the cultivation of the above produce.
- The SFRI, Jabalpur can provide the research findings on this topic through a report in the next Workshop.
The intending cultivator should be given training for the cultivation and harvesting techniques and should be acquainted with the produce.
- The SFRI, Jabalpur can provide the research findings on this topic through a report in the next Workshop.
Quality planting material at reasonable price should be given to the farmer.
- The SFRI, Jabalpur can provide the research findings on this topic through a report in the next Workshop.
Each state may select at least two species from each category for standardizing agro-technologies and promote cultivation involving experts.
- The SFRI, Jabalpur can provide the research findings on this topic through a report in the next Workshop.
The selected species can be tried on pilot scale for ascertaining the economics and suitability. The techniques and produce can be propagated further based on the market potential and MoUs for purchase are proposed to be signed with the user industries.
- The forest department shall plant the above species in various afforestation programmes.

5. Value addition

- Value addition of NTFPs can play a major role in creation of additional employment to the rural poor. Each state has to focus on value addition of priority species.
- The states can exchange the successful attempts in terms of value addition of NTFP for implementation. The documentation of above attempts can be circulated in the next workshop.
- The SFRI, Jabalpur can provide the research findings on this topic through a report in the next Workshop.
Each state shall identify 5 NTFP for development of standard protocols for value addition with the help of experts. The species and items can be different for different states to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Successful pilot projects can be expanded in the state and region by sharing of information.

6. Marketing

6.1 Nationalized NTFP

Marketing of NTFP of various state organizations is currently limited to nationalized NTFP. The procurement rates, sale procedures and conditions and commercial taxes are different in different states for nationalised produce. The states dispose their produce without much interaction with neighbouring states benefiting some times the purchasers. These have created illegal trafficking of NTFP among neighboring states, benefiting mischievous traders and harming the interest of collectors of NTFP. Hence, it is decided to adopt and implement uniform regional policy for the trade of nationalized NTFP. This will require -

- A regional center having the market information of all the regional states. To begin with MP MFP Federation can be selected.
- Uniformity in sale procedure and conditions and tax structure.
- Uniformity in collection/procurement prices of NWFP as far as practically possible. The variation in purchase rates in neighbouring states creates the problem of illegal movement of MFP from one state to other states.
- Scheduling of tenders without harming the interests of neighboring states.
- Revision of marketing strategy with periodic consultation among regional states for the benefit of all.
- The process for uniformity of procedures and conditions will be discussed and finalized in the next workshop.

• A regional center having the market information of all the regional states. To begin with MP MFP Federation can be selected.

6.1 Non Nationalized NTFP

The quality, quantity, occurrence and price received by the collectors vary from place to place in case of Non-Nationalized NTFP. Quality control by adopting good collection practices and value addition is the best means for providing remunerative price to the collectors. Many NTFPs are in demand but quantitative demand for a particular produce may be small. Phased approach is suggested to be followed for achieving the desired goals. Hence, prioritization of species for Good Collection Practices (GCP) and their value addition in areas having active JFM committees is the key step towards success. Following strategy is proposed for implementation.

- Each state shall prioritize 5 NTFP of tree origin and 5 NTFP of climber, shrub/herb origin for GCP and value addition.
- Each state shall market the products produced by JFM committees/MFP Co-operative societies through a unique brand name. These products can be marketed through sale out lets of neighboring states through a regional brand name, if necessary.
- A chain of retail outlets on the pattern of Sanjeevani of Madhya Pradesh is suggested for marketing of these products in each state. MP MFP Federation shall distribute detail notes on functioning and structure of Sanjeevani network in the next Workshop.
- The marketing of value added products can also be done through dealers as is practised by Girijan Co-operative Corporation of Andhra Pradesh. The organization shall circulate detail note on the implementation of this system in the next workshop.
- It is proposed to abolish Mandi Tax and Commercial Tax/VAT on the forest produce similar to Andhra Pradesh for promoting the trade.
- IIFM/SFRI can develop market information system that can provide information on NWFP, quantity traded, quality, prices in different Bazar's, traders in different states. A model can be presented by these organizations in next Workshop.

1. Research & Development

The research and development component on NTFP shall focus on testing facilities in each state and standardization of procedures. The proposed strategy for research and development is as follows -

- IIFM/SFRI can develop market information system that can provide information on NWFP, quantity traded, quality, prices

- TFRI Jabalpur should coordinate and compile research findings on NTFP available in other institutions/organizations of the world to provide the same on demand to the states. The Gol should provide budgetary fund for the same. TFRI can propose a working model in next workshop.
- MoEF/ICFRE Gol should start R & D schemes on NTFP in two categories, one of National concern and other a state concern. The R & D institutes can avail the budget from the latter category to work on problems proposed by concerned state only.

in different Bazar's, traders in different states. A model can be presented by these organizations in next State Govts/ MoEF/ ICFRE, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India shall launch special drive with appropriate incentives to invite entrepreneurs to establish quality testing laboratories in each agro-climatic regions of the state. The labs will provide testing facility to the MFP organization/traders of the produce. Tested produce will fetch higher remunerative prices.

- The SFRI/TFRI, Jabalpur should compile important implementable research findings on NTFP which are available with them in book let form (if necessary, on a price) for circulation.
- TFRI Jabalpur should coordinate and compile research findings on NTFP available in other institutions/organizations of the world to provide the same on demand to the states. The Government of India should provide budgetary fund for the same. TFRI can propose a working model in next workshop.
- MoEF/ICFRE Government of India should start R&D schemes on NTFP in two categories, one of National concern and other a state concern. The R & D institutes can avail the budget from the latter category to work on problems proposed by concerned state only.
- MFP Federations/STDC's should get adequate budgetary support for undertaking studies and implementation of extension activities for technology transfer.

8. Management Information System

- Each state/organization should establish a separate MIS cell for providing reliable database. The MIS cell should produce database on
 - ▶ Important NTFP, yield, production areas.
 - ▶ Information on trade of NTFP.
 - ▶ Trader's directory
 - ▶ Directory of cultivators of NTFP species
 - ▶ Processing units & Manufacturing industries
- These MIS cells of states should be connected through Internet and coordinated by Regional Co-ordination Cell for information flow.
- The state government concerned and Government of India (Tribal Affairs Ministry, MoEF) should provide budgetary support.

9. Technical Support - Technology Transfer

- Each state should earmark part of its budget for technical support and technology transfer. Uniform & simpler guidelines can be prepared for hiring technical services of experts. Regional coordination cell should short list experts/ expert organizations with the help of the regional states.
- Each state should focus on capacity building of SHGs, JFM committees and primary Minor Forest Produce Cooperative societies through transfer of technology to the grass root level. Each organization should come up with its plan on pilot basis, the results of which can be shared in regional workshops.

10. Traditional knowledge

- Each state should document the traditional knowledge on use and conservation of NWFP.
- National Medicinal Plants Board should provide budgetary support for the same to undertake the studies besides facilitating institutional support.
- Each state should prepare the list of traditional healers and diseases, which they treat.

11. Regional Co-ordination and Co-operation

It was decided to establish a regional confederation with its headquarters at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. MP MFP Federation, Bhopal expressed its willingness to establish the same with a skeleton staff and will present detailed note on functions and role in next workshop. The functions of this confederation will be -

- Coordination among member states.
- Exchange of information regarding production, present stock and market trends of Tendu leaves and other Nationalized, Non-nationalized NWFP.
- Exchange of tender notices and sales results among members.
- Maintenance of the database of all the purchasers with quantities purchased from different states for use by all members.
- Website for confederation to provide information required by traders and members.
- The members of the confederation will be forest departments/ co-operatives federation of NWFP.
- The Governing body shall comprise of Chief Executives of state organization as members.
- Organize meetings to be held at regular intervals by mutual

- Each state should earmark part of its budget for technical support and technology transfer. Uniform & simpler guidelines can be prepared for hiring technical services of experts.
- National Medicinal Plants Board should provide budgetary support for the same to undertake the studies besides facilitating institutional support.
- Regional confederation with its headquarters at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. MP MFP Federation, Bhopal expressed its willingness to establish

consultation. One meeting each in March and July should be mandatory.

12. Role of Government of India Organizations

The workshop made a prescription for different ministries and organisations that deal with MFP/NTFP. These prescriptions were further refined in the consultation in Hyderabad. Detailed role of different ministries and organisations has been presented in the recommendations of Hyderabad consultation.

13. Tax structure

Different taxation rates in different states have led to problems in growth of NWFP trade and industry. Hence, the workshop proposed the following strategy -

- a) Mandi Tax should be abolished on all Minor Forest Produce as the forest produce is not a agricultural produce.
- b) Commercial Tax/Value Added Tax should be abolished to benefit the poor collectors of MFP or at least rates should be uniform in all states.

14. PESA and its implementation

The objective of PESA is to enable tribal communities in scheduled V areas to assert their identity, control over natural resources and autonomy through participation in PRI's (Panchayat Raj Institutions). As per PESA, the state government should enact a law for endowment of ownership of Minor Forest Produce to Gram Sabha. So far Maharastra and Orissa have enacted rules under this act, Chhattisgarh and M.P. are giving incentive wages to the collectors out of the profit from the trade. At present co-operative societies are playing major role in the trade of MFP in C.G. and M.P.

The workshop could not form up the legal strategy for implementation of the PESA due to complexity of the issues involved.

15. NWFP POLICY

National Policy on NWFP

The present National Forest Policy 1988 does not lay adequate emphasis on NWFP.

The regional workshop on NWFP recommended for a vibrant separate National Policy on NWFP. This policy shall cover following areas-

-
- Conservation
 - Collection & cultivation
 - Processing & value addition
 - Marketing
 - Research & Development
 - Finance
-
- It should provide for sustainable livelihood to forest dependent communities specially linked with NWFP.
 - Each state should prioritize selected species so as to initiate development initiatives.
 - Resource inventory, conservation, cultivation, sustainable harvesting, value addition and capacity building of rural communities shall be important components of the NWFP Policy.
 - It shall provide for developing state and National level database on collection and Marketing of NWFP.
 - Policy can include the formation of NWFP Trade and Development Board and propose coordination committees for production & marketing of NWFP.
 - Initiate centrally sponsored schemes for developing NWFP sector especially in the field of cultivation, conservation, collection, value addition and marketing.
 - Promote NWFP based R&D and budget allocations and priorities shall be linked to the problem and concerns of various states.
 - It should provide for health security especially for rural population through NWFP and will promote the traditional knowledge.



Hyderabad Consultation

The National Workshop on Non Wood Forest Produce Policy was jointly organized by National Institute of Rural Development, Girijan Cooperative Corporation and RCDC at NIRD, Hyderabad on the 7-8 June 2005. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Y.S.Rajsekhar Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

CHAPTER - IV

The main objective of the third consultation in the series was to build on further thinking and action on concretizing the regional policy framework promoting forest-based livelihoods. Specific possibilities would be explored for having a regional federation for market development and support to the forest dwellers, mutual help and cooperation for growth and development of forest based in-

I. Major discussions/discussants

Date	Topic	Presented by
07.06.2005	Non- wood forest produce: Policy issues	Sri Wilfred Lakra, IAS, M.D., TRIFED, N.Delhi & Dr. R.C. Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, Chattisgarh State Vanoshadhi Board, Raipur
Technical session I	Regional policy for NWFP development marketing framework	Dr. Manoj Pattnaik, Director, RCDC-CFG, Bhubaneswar Dr. Suryakumari, Centre for People's Forestry, Hyderabad Mr. A.A. Ansari, Addl. M.D. Madhya Pradesh MFP Federation A.K. Mohapatra, TDCC, Orissa A.Vidyasagar, GCC, Andhra Pradesh
Technical session- II	Research, Value Addition & Product Development in a regional perspective	CG Medicinal Plants Board Dr. A.K. Pandey, TFRI

dustries, collaborative research and development for value addition and transfer of skills and technology to the primary collectors and producers.

II. Major issues discussed

- Collaborative research and development for scientific collection, value addition of NWFP and transfer of skills and technology to the primary collectors and producers

- Mutual help and cooperation for growth and development of forest based industries and employment in Central India
- Minimum support price for NTFP and creation of fund for procurement and trade.
- Regional federation for market development and support to the forest dwellers
- The role of different Ministries like Ministry of Forest & Environment, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Health etc for effective implementation of the policies on NTFP.
- Procurement, price fixation and marketing of non- wood forest produce and contitution of national level Non- Wood Forest Produce Board to carry forward the process.

III. Recommendations

I. Resource Assessment, Non-destructive Harvesting and Scientific Collection

A central agency like the Forest Survey of India should be assigned the task of carrying out a countrywide study in a time bound manner through scientific methodologies based upon sound principles to assess the NWFP resource base, develop and standardize non destructive harvesting practices and evolve and implement training programmes for scientific collection.

- The agency assigned with this task must standardize the methodologies to ensure uniformity in the entire country.
- The study must be both qualitatively and quantitatively comprehensive.
- The study must involve and associate all the stakeholders like Forest Department, forest dwellers, FDCs/TDCCs and Research Institutions.
- The prioritization of species from amongst the resource base must be done based upon market potential through involvement of stakeholders.
- Resource-base inventory must compulsorily be taken into consideration while preparing the forest management plans of the respective areas with special emphasis on NWFP.
- The findings of the survey and recommendations of the working plans must be made available to all the stakeholders and the same be scrupulously followed.
- Research institutions should be assigned the task of documenting and creating a database on existing traditional harvesting practices and validate it scientifically.
- The optimum quantity of NWFP species that can be collected/harvested without adversely affecting the resource

- Resource-base inventory must compulsorily be taken into consideration while preparing the forest management plans of the respective areas with special emphasis on NWFP.
- Research institutions should be assigned the task and stakeholders be involved in the standardization of non-destructive harvesting practices of the priority species.

- Simple training manuals/extension material in local languages and dialects that lay emphasis on graphics/pictures to allow easy interpretation and implementation.
- No discrimination between tribal and non-tribal MFP collectors.
- Price fixation process should provide a range of prices of different NWFP so that the flexibility in the prices is ensured.
- For the nationalised products the price should be almost same for all the states.

- base should be scientifically determined.
- Research institutions should be given the task and stakeholders be involved in standardization of non-destructive harvesting practices of the priority species.
- A calendar for non-destructive harvest of priority species should be developed and widely disseminated.
- Quality of the produce should also be taken into consideration while standardizing these techniques.
- Present collection and harvest practices should be fine-tuned based on scientific findings.
- Stakeholders should be imparted training in good and scientific collection, harvest, processing and storage practices.
- Simple training manuals/extension material should be prepared in local languages and dialects that lay emphasis on graphics/pictures to allow easy interpretation and implementation.
- Training process should be continuously upgraded and updated on a regular basis.

II. Procurement and Marketing of NWFP and PESA

Procurement and price fixation

- There should not be any discrimination between tribal and non-tribal MFP collectors and the state agencies should collect NWFP from the primary collectors in general.
- The procurement from the village needs to be done through the primary collectors' organisations such as SHGs/cooperative societies. Wherever these institutions already exist, they need to be reorganized and reoriented on NWFP procurement in order to avoid the middlemen/intermediaries.
- The state agencies have to procure the produces from the cooperatives of primary collectors.
- Common/uniform prices for 20-30 priority products (NWFP) across the states/national level should be fixed. This should be based on a 'priority list' of NWFP provided by the states. The price needs to be fixed by a National level board.
- This should provide a price band for different NWFP so that the flexibility in the prices is ensured depending on the market situation.
- There should be different prices for different grades of the produce (processed or semi processed produces).
- For the nationalised products, the price should be almost same for all the states.

Constitution of NWFP Board

A Board at National level should be constituted (NWFP Board) with representation of different ministries including tribal affairs, forests, rural development, social justice etc, representatives from the state governments including the state agencies engaged in NWFP, representation of industries, civil society organisations etc.

- This board would help in fixation of prices of NWFP.
- The board would undertake market research/intelligence and provide market support to the state agencies.
- The board would directly market selected important produces both in domestic and export market.
- Creation of NWFP trust fund
- A fund for procurement, value addition, research and development, marketing etc should be created at the national level pooling in resources from various ministries and possibly the Tribal Affairs ministry taking a lead in this direction. The approximate size of the fund should be around Rs. 500 – 1000 crores.

- A Board at National level with representation of different ministries, state governments including the state agencies engaged in NWFP, representation of industries, civil society organisations etc.
- Creation of NWFP trust fund.
- NWFP board should help in exploring international and national markets.
- Common branding at the national level for 5-10 products.

Marketing

- State agencies should take up the role of marketing the produces of cooperatives.
- The state agencies should be well aware of the market situation.
- NWFP board should help in exploring national and international markets.
- Common branding at the national level should be adopted for 5-10 products.
- Trifed needs to play the role of channelising agency for export.

III. Value Addition and R&D

- A harvesting code for NWFP needs to be developed in order to facilitate how, when and what to harvest.
- Post harvesting protocols should be put in place for cleaning, grading and storage.
- Primary processing like drying, pulverization, decortification, depulping should be encouraged at the primary collectors' level and necessary training imparted for quality maintenance.
- Effective measures should be adopted for minimization/control of fungal and microbial contamination.
- Product diversification should be encouraged and supported.
- Networking of R & D institutes/agencies/NGOs should be

- A harvesting code for NWFP in order to facilitate how, when and what to harvest.
- Post harvesting protocols for cleaning, grading and storage.

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- undertaken for sharing of information.
 - Apex bodies at national and state levels should be established to disseminate appropriate knowledge resources.
 - Common quality specifications/ standards for each species should be developed.
 - Technology upgradation and transfer should be prioritised and effected.
 - An agency should be identified and given mandate for effective coordination, implementation and monitoring of suggested measures.

IV. Regional Coordination and Cooperation

In order to have effective regional coordination and cooperation, there has to be certain commonalities in policies, laws, rules, regulations adopted by the states in the region.

- States should arrive at a common nationalization policy and decide on common procurement price fixation mechanism.
- States should formulate a common transit code and format. States should agree on waiver of transit permits for non nationalized items.
- States in the region should adopt a uniform taxation and royalty structure. The present multiple taxes and rates should be replaced by one commercial tax and one forest & infrastructure development tax. A single rate should be prescribed for all NWFP
- States should not impose any royalty on forest produces. In the spirit of PESA, only GPs/gram sabha should be given power to charge royalties, if any.

Sharing of information & knowledge is one of the key areas for cooperation and collaboration. The following areas should be prioritised for collaboration.

- Resource inventory, potential and production
- Research & Development initiatives, documented traditional knowledge, non-destructive harvesting practices.
- Standardized cultivation techniques, training and capacity building programmes, processing technologies and facilities.

There should be an institutional arrangement in the form of a 'regional federation' of participating states under the umbrella of TRIFED. Participating states would nominate their institution-

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States should arrive at a common nationalization policy and decide on common procurement price fixation mechanism. • States should formulate a common transit code and format. States should agree on waiver of transit permits for non nationalized items. • States in the region should adopt a uniform taxation and royalty |
|--|

TDCC/MFP federation/FDC. National level institutions like NABARD, NAFED, NSTFDC should be taken on the governing body of the federation. The regional federation should have the following roles.

- development and maintenance of database and regional MIS
- facilitating collaborative efforts in product & market development – Common brand name
- creating common infrastructure like storage, testing, quality control facilities and manufacturing facilities/sharing of existing facilities

V. Role of Government of India for Effective Implementation of NTFP Policies

Ministry of Environment and Forests(MOEF)

- MoEF should either modify the existing Forest Policy of 1988 or make a new policy exclusively for MFP.
- MoEF should initiate special schemes for in situ conservation of NWFP rich areas. This scheme should have components of resource inventory, conservation, good collection practices, capacity building of collectors of NWFP, JFM committees and Primary Cooperative Societies and processing and value addition of NWFP
- Standardisation of sustainable harvesting and good collection practices of NWFP through ICFRE, IIFM and other institutes.
- Make transit rules for National Transit Permits for avoiding unnecessary delays in transit of forest produce due to change of T.P. at states borders and issue necessary guidelines.
- Appropriate and proactive guidelines should be issued under Forest Conservation Act to promote the cultivation of MFP /Medicinal plants in forest areas.
- The Ministry should take the initiative to define MFP/ NWFP/NTFP with reference to PESA and other Acts.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- The Tribal Ministry should provide regular funds for procurement, storage, value addition and capacity building of MFP to TDCCs, Federations, Cooperatives and NGOs.
- The funds should be earmarked every year on the basis of Forest Area, Tribal population and potential of MFP production. The tentative allotments should be intimated to every state in the month of April so that projects are sent accordingly.

- Standardisation of sustainable harvesting and good collection practices of NWFP through ICFRE, IIFM and other institutes.
- Make transit rules for National Transit Permits for avoiding unnecessary delays in transit of forest produce due to change of T.P. at states borders and issue necessary guidelines.
- Appropriate and proactive guidelines should be issued under Forest Conservation Act to promote the cultivation of MFP /Medicinal plants in forest areas.

- The rates of minor forest produce are highly fluctuating. Hence there should be provision for absorption of trade losses.
- The Janshree Insurance Scheme of L.I.C. of India can provide social security to all the poor collectors of Tendu leaves. It is proposed that Rs. 25 per family can be contributed by State Federation and balance Rs. 75 by Government of India. At present Rs. 100 per insurer is given by L.I.C.
- TRIFED should have the database of traders/exporters. It should create an interface/networking between traders/exporters and TDCCs/Federations.
- TRIFED should establish or facilitate in establishing modern processing units in urban and rural areas to enhance the return from MFP to tribals.
- TRIFED should prepare statewise action plans for NWFP in consultation with respective states.
- TRIFED should help in ensuring maximum allocation from tribal welfare departments to TDCCs/Federations of the States.
- TRIFED should be involved in capacity building, ensure quality collection, processing and value addition of MFP.

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)

- It should launch special loan/subsidy schemes for establishing godowns, cold storages, testing labs and processing units based on NWFP and should provide soft loan with low interest on working capital.
- It should establish its offices in each state and operate the schemes through existing bank structures for providing soft loans/subsidy to SHGs, JFMCs, for procurement & processing of NWFP.
- Consumption loan should be extended to the MFP collectors in the lean season, which would be recovered through procurement in the next season.

Shellac Export Promotion Council (SEPC)

- SEPC should conduct traders/industries meet in each state for providing export market of Shellac and help the lac traders in registration as exporter.
- It should start special schemes for improving Lac productivity in these states.

Ministry of Health

- Ministry should provide funds to SMPBs (State Medicinal Plant Boards) for documenting the traditional knowledge on herbal health care, practices, identification and

recognition of traditional herbal healers.

- State Medicinal Plant Boards should be funded for schemes for cultivation, processing, value addition and marketing of medicinal plants relevant to the particular state by the NMPB.
- Collect the information on source and quantity of the various raw material used by the pharmaceutical companies.
- Issues relating to IPR of traditional knowledge and practices should be coordinated with Ministry of Commerce.

Ministry of Commerce

- It should insist on NWFP based industries to declare the source, type of NWFPs they are using and develop NWFP based database at National Level for arriving at a strategy to promote domestic trade and export promotion.
- Ministry should ensure the information of quantity and source of raw material used by individual industry.

Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)

- MoRD should issue guidelines to promote NWFP based cultivation, procurement and value addition activities through self-help groups and earmark adequate funds in various programmes like Food for Work, Special SGSY, SGRY etc.
- It should increase the subsidy for NWFP based procurement & value addition efforts by SHGs at par with irrigation scheme i.e. the amount of subsidy on these activities shall be 50% and shall not have any upper limit.

Ministry of Agriculture

- Sal fat, which is cocoa butter equivalent, is allowed to be used in chocolate manufacturing in India. If the permission for use of Sal fat in chocolate manufacture is granted under PFA in India, Sal seed can fetch much better price resulting in better remuneration to collectors of Sal seed.

Smt. P Jyoti Rao, Secretary, Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs who graced the valedictory session spoke of the need for developing reliable database and primary markets and focusing our energies on identified high volume products. She also concurred with the need for a regional approach. She recognised that the investment is presently low in the sector and promised to consider innovative projects from the states.



The Way Forward

The regional consultative process initiated in 2004 has reached a stage where it can gather steam on its own. One of the major contributions of the process has been to put NTFP on the top of the policy radar vis-à-vis tribals and forest dwelling communities. Since much of the efforts for a change need to be made at the state level, it was decided in the consultation at Hyderabad that rather than waiting for a national policy to be framed each state needs to proactively implement the recommendations of these consultations. Each state needs to come up with a clear cut policy for facilitating management and trade in NTFP. To concretize the gains of the process and keep up the momentum, some of the suggestions that emerged from the three rounds of consultations have been listed below.

CHAPTER - V

1. MFP Federations and Tribal Development Corporations (TDCs) could continue the debate within their respective states for adoption of the recommendations. In fact, a large part of the recommendations pertain to the decision-making domain of the state governments. Civil Society Organisations could join the state entities to further the debate, fine-tune the recommendations and advocate for its incorporation in state policy and programme framework and investment priorities.
2. There is a need for regular interaction with concerned Union Ministries / Departments to apprise them of the recommendations, emphasize the need for adopting the same and initiate action on them.
3. The proceedings/recommendations need to be widely circulated and to as many stakeholders as possible. The same can be done in local languages for developing better understanding and also for having more buyers to the idea who will pursue it at their level.
4. As the participation from Jharkhand and Maharashtra, both from the Government and civil society, was inadequate, there is a need for further debate in these two states so that they can actively contribute to the advocacy campaign at the national level.
5. In the age of information, it is necessary to engage the media

and highlight the process and the recommendations for wider informed debate and create congenial conditions for its implementation.

6. Connections need to be established with advocacy networks based in Delhi and impressed to pursue this as part of their agenda. They need to be regularly fed with information so that the task is done effectively at their end.
7. Sharing of information across the states should remain a priority and needs to be activity pursued. MFP Federations and TDCs can act as the information hubs and make information available to different stakeholders.
8. Immediate step needs to be taken for inventorying of NTFP and standardization of harvesting, processing etc. technologies of selected products. Each state has to identify the products and intimate other states so that there won't be any duplication of efforts.



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Sl. No.	Participating Institutions/Organisations	Members
1	Tribal Welfare Sankshema Bhavan, Hyderabad	Dr. Manmohan Singh, Commissioner
2	A.P. Forest Academy, Hyderabad	Shri P. Rajender Nath, Dy. Director
3	TRIFED, Hyderabad	Shri B. Jagdish, Regional Manager
4	Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Hyderabad	Dr. Vijaya Kumar
5	Tribal Welfare Dept, Govt. of A.P., Hyderabad	Shri G. Kamalavardhan Rao, Addl. Secretary
6	National Institute of Small Industry Extn. Training (NISJET), Hyderabad	Shri V.V. Subba Rao
7	Tribal Research Institute, Hyderabad	Dr. V.N.V.K. Sastry, Director
8	Indira Kranti Pantham (Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty), Hyderabad	Shri S.A. Manjeed, State Project Advisor (Mkg)
9	Centre for People's Forestry, Secunderabad	Dr. D. Suryakumari, Director Shri G. Solomon Raj, Project Officer
10	Forest Product Business, Khammam, A.P.	Shri R. Jugal Kishore Shri Vishal Khandelwal
11	Trading of Forest Products, Khammam, A.P.	Shri Venugopal Bhattad
12	CARE India, Sustainable Tribal Empowerment Project (STEP), Vishakhapatnam	Shri Basant Mohanty, Programme Director Shri Suryamani Roul, Project Director
13	Kovel Foundation, Vishakhapatnam	Shri V. Krishna Rao, Chief Executive Officer
14	All India Radio, Vishakhapatnam	Shri N. Venugopal, Programme Executive
15	Vikasa Dhatri, Vishakhapatnam	Ms. K. Aruna
16	Dept. of Adult & Continuing Edn, Vishakhapatnam	Prof. Syam Atluri
17	Forest Department, A.P.	Shri Manoranjan Bhanja, CF Shri C. Siva Sankara Reddy, Addl. PCCF
18	Forest Research Centre, Hyderabad	Shri M. Lokeshwar Rao, CF

Sl. No.	Participating Institutions/Organisations	Members
19	Girijan Cooperative Corporation Ltd, Hyderabad	Shri A. Vidya Sagar, M.D. & Vice Chairman Shri Sidam Jangu, Divisional Manager Shri K. Chandrasekhara Rao, Div.Manager Dr. L.K. Ramanandam, Sr. Manager Shri A. Ramaswami, Divisional Manager Shri V. Appa Rao, Divisional Manager Shri S. Adi Narayana, Dy. General Manager (Fin) Shri M. Uma Maheshwar Rao, Jr. Manager Shri M.S. Sundara Rao, Joint Registrar Shri K. Rajeshwar Rao, General Manager Shri S. Ashok Kumar, Sr. Manager Shri Mangilal Nayak Bhukya, Board of Directors Shri Ranjana Naik Korra, Board of Directors Shri Noorsingh Chowhan, Board of Directors
20	Foods, Fat & Fertilizer Ltd., A.P.	Shri T.R. Rao
21	Chhatisgarh Forest Department, Raipur	Dr. S.C. Jena, PCCF Shri Dhirendra Sharma, A.P.C.C.F. (Dev. & Planning) Shri N.K. Bhagat, A.P.C.C.F. (Admn/Coordination) Shri Ram Prakash, C.C.F. (Land Mgmt) Dr. A.A. Boaz, C.C.F. (Research & Extn.) Shri Anup Bhalla C.C.F. (Working Plan) Shri R.C. Raigar, C.C.F. (Production) Dr. J.K. Upadhayay, C.C.F. (Finance & Budget) Shri S.C. Agarwal, C.F. (Finance & Budget) Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao, CF (JFM)

Sl. No.	Participating Institutions/Organisations	Members
		Shri K.C. Yadav, Conservator of Forests Smt. Shobha Subramaniam, CF(Admn./Coord.) Shri K.M. Johri, CF (Administration) Shri Diwakar Mishra, CF(Land Mgmt.) Shri A.K. Dwivedi, CF (Development) Shri Rakesh Chaturvedi, CF Shri Sunil Mishra, DFO Shri K.C. Bewarta, DFO, FMIS Division Shri Jitin Kumar, CF., Kanker Circle Shri Koushalendra Singh, CF, Bilaspur Circle Shri Rajesh Kumar Govardhan, CF, Durg Circle Shri S.S.D. Badgaiya, D.F.O. East Raipur Shri B.P. Nonhare, C.F., Jagdalpur Circle
22	Tribal Welfare, Govt. of Chhattisgarh	Shri P.C. Dalei, Secretary
23	Panchayat & Rural Development Deptt., Raipur	Shri P.C. Mishra, Spl. Secretary
24	Govt. of Chhattisgarh	Shri Sailesh Pathak, Secretary to Governor
25	C.G. Van Vikas Nigam, Raipur	Shri R.N. Mishra, M.D. & P.C.C.F. Shri V.S. Silekar, E.D. & C.C.F.
26	C.G. Rajya Vanoshadhi Board, Raipur	Dr. R.C. Sharma, Chief Executive Officer
27	State Institute of Rural Development, Raipur	Shri A.P. Dubey, Director
28	Indian System of Medicine & Homeopathy, Raipur	Dr. G.S. Badesha, Director
29	Chhattisgarh Action & Research Team, Raipur	Shri Gautam Bandopadhyay
30	Chattisgarh MFP Federation, Raipur	Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Managing Director Shri B.N. Dwivedi, E.D. & C.C.F. Shri B.L. Saran, General Manager Shri R.K. Dey, C.F., Task Force
31	Forest development Corporation, Raipur	Shri N.C. Pant, General Manager
32	Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur	Dr. A.K. Pandey, Sr. Scientist

Sl. No.	Participating Institutions/Organisations	Members
33	State Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur	Shri P.K. Shukla, Director
34	Gujarat State Forest Dev. Corporation Ltd., Baroda	Shri A.K. Sharma, Managing Director
35	Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, Bhopal	Dr. M.S. Rana, CF (Social Forestry)
36	M.P. MFP Federation, Bhopal	Shri V.R. Khare, Managing Director Shri A.A. Ansari, Addl. Managing Director Shri R.K.Dave, AMD Shri Narendra Kumar, Executive Director
37	Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal	Dr. Manmohan Yadav, Faculty of Marketing Management
38	Forest Department, Maharashtra	Shri Alinda Chandra, CCF (Evaluation & Nationalisation)
39	Tribal Development Corporation, Nasik	Shri S.R. Kolpe, Manager
40	Rural Communes, Mumbai	Mr. Vivek Gour Broome
41	Tribal Cooperative Marketing Dev. Federation of India 25Ltd, New Delhi	Shri Wilfred Lakra, Managing Director Shri R.K. Singh, Dy. General Manager, MFP Shri Kush Verma, Executive Director
42	National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation, New Delhi	Ms. S. Bhavani, Chairperson cum Managing Director Shri R.J. Kachhap, Dy. Manager (Project)
43	TRIFED, Govt. Of India, New Delhi	Shri K. Vivek Vinayak, Ex- Director Shri A.D. Mishra
44	DFID India, N. Delhi	Dr. Virinder Sharma
45	Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi	Shri S. Chatterjee
46	National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi	Shri R.B.S. Rawat, C.E.O.
47	IDRC (Canada), New Delhi	Dr. Madhav Karki, MAPPA Coordinator
48	PRIA, New Delhi	Shri S.S. Sahni, Director
49	Earth Care Consultants, New Delhi	Ms. Varsha Mehta Shri Ajay Rai Shri Ashish Sharma

Sl. No.	Participating Institutions/Organisations	Members
50	I.C.F.R.E., Dehradun	Shri Mudit Kumar Singh, Director General
51	State Wasteland Development Board, Ranchi	Shri R. K. Jutshi, PCCF & Executive Director
52	Forest Development Corporation, Ranchi	Shri J.B.Jauhar, Managing Director
53	Jharkhand Forest Department, Ranchi	Shri M. Kargham, Conservator Of Forests Shri D.K. Srivastava, CCF, Wildlife
54	Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata	Dr. Devyani Rai, Executive Director
55	Bastar, Chattisgarh	Smt. Kalabati Shri Iqbal.
56	SC/ST Department, Bhubaneswar	Shri S.P. Mishra, Dy. Secretary to Govt
57	TDCC, Bhubaneswar	Shri A.K. Mohapatra, Managing Director
58	Chetna Shramik Sangha, Bargarh	Ms. Anita Bag Ms. Karpura Bag
59	PIPAR, Dhenkanal	Shri Shankarshan Hota
60	MASS, Sambalpur	Shri Ranjan Panda
61	MASS, Baripada	Shri Bibekananda Pattnaik
62	Centre for World Solidarity, Bhubaneswar	Prof. Radhamohan
63	Shristi, Bhubaneswar	Shri Jitesh Panda Shri Deepak K. Biswal
64	Concern World Wide, Bhubaneswar	Shri Ashish Raj
65	Panchayati Raj Department, Bhubaneswar	Shri Swapneswar Baya, Director
66	OFDC Ltd., Bhubaneswar	Dr. J.P. Singh, C.C.F. Shri Vinod Kumar, Director (Operations)
67	Foundation for Ecological Security, Angul	Shri Sisir Pradhan
68	ERA Consultancy, Bhubaneswar	Dr. Abhash Panda
69	District Forestry Federation, Bolangir	Shri Kulamani Sahoo
70	Jaya Bharati Shramika Sangha, Bargarh	Shri Sapta Sindhu Bagarti
71	WOSCA, Keonjhar	Shri Manish Sinhal
72	NCDS, Bhubaneswar	Prof. R.N. Mallik
73	Sewak, Sundergarh	Shri Raj Kumar Dehuri
74	Jangal Surakshya Mahasangha, Nayagarh	Shri Kailash ch. Sahoo
75	District Forestry Federation, Boudh	Shri Divya Shankar Rout Shri Suryamani Panda
76	YAVARD, Sundergarh	Shri Ramesh Ch. Mahanta

Sl. No.	Participating Institutions/Organisations	Members
77	Kendupatra Tolali Manch, Sundergarh	Ms. Boita Pradhan Ms. Bijuli Nayak
78	Vasundhara, Bhubaneswar	Shri B. Rath Shri Y. Giri Rao
79.	Freelance Researcher	Ms. Ranu Bhogal
80	Forest & Environment Department, Govt.of Orissa	Dr. G.B. Mukherjee, Principal Secretary to Govt. of Orissa.
81	J.K. Paper Ltd., Bhubaneswar	Shri A.K. Sharda Shri S. N. Nayak Shri D.K. Sahoo
82	J.K. Paper Ltd., Rayagada	Shri Suresh Ch. Panda
83	Orissa Forest Department	Shri Deepak Mohanty, Planning Officer Shri S.K. Mohanty Shri S.C. Mishra, CF (Kendu Leaves) Shri A.K. Pathak, D.F.O., Boudh
84	UNDP, Balasore	Shri Sharda Mohanty
85	UNDP, Bhubaneswar	Shri B.P. Jethi Shri N.P. Panigrahi, Planner Specialist Shri Rama Ch. Patra Shri Anindya Ku. Sarkar
86	ISARA, Gajapati	Shri Prafulla Kumar Padhi
87	OXFAM GB, Bhubaneswar	Shri Dasarathi Sahu
88	Planning & Coordination Dept, Bhubaneswar	Dr. R. V. Singh, Special Secretary
89	Priti Oil Ltd, Sambalpur	Shri Shambhu Lal Agarwal
90	Office of Silviculturist, Bhubaneswar	Shri B.K. Swain, Silviculturist
91		Shri Saroj Patnaik, Retired CCF
92		Shri D.S.Patnaik, Retired CCF
93		Shri H.N.Sahu, Retired CCF
94		Shri Biswanath Hota, Retired DFO
95		Shri B.C. Pal, Retired CCF, Maharashtra
96		Shri S.K. Awasthi, Rtd. CCF, MP
97	RCDC, Bhubaneswar	Sanjoy, Manoj, Tapan, Nirmal & others



An introduction to RCDC Centre for Forestry and Governance

RCDC since its inception in 1993 has been working with different resource managing communities and their organisations for conservation, re-generation, protection and management of local resources including forest. Its major areas of intervention are research, documentation, advocacy and field demonstration in the areas of forestry, water, integrated resource management and participatory governance. During last September and October the organisation underwent major changes in its structure and functions in order to fulfil the long cherished objectives of the organisation to create centres of excellence and create platform for multiple leadership. Three thematic and two geographical centres have been constituted within RCDC. Centre for Forestry and Governance is one of the thematic centres of RCDC.

RCDC Centre for Forestry and Governance

Aims and Objectives

- More legal space for the forest protecting and managing communities to exercise their rights over forest i.e. to decide over the use of forest produces; to use the resources raised from forestry for meeting their own development needs; to settle conflicts emerging out of forest conservation and management model.
- More legal and operative space for Gram panchayats to function as units of self-governance especially in the areas of a) deciding their needs and priorities; b) raising resources to meet their needs and priorities; c) exercising control over local natural resources, physical infrastructure, local institutions etc and d) resolving conflicts at their own level.

Programme and activities

There are mainly 5 activity components of the centre.

Research, documentation and database management on the following issues/areas

The centre undertakes action research and documentation on the following issues

- Issues and challenges in community forest management, decentralised governance of forest in the state and in the region.
 - Trends, options and challenges in forest based livelihood.
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- Issues and options in management and trade of non-wood forest produces.
 - Issues involved in management of protected areas and possibilities for community based management of protected areas.
 - Traditional knowledge pertaining to management of forest, forest produces, local self-governance etc.
 - Innovative approaches in decentralised governance especially tribal self-rule.

Publication and Communication

Presently, RCDC is bringing out a **bimonthly newsletter** in regional language - **Ama Jungle Amara (Our Forest is Ours)** for the forest protecting communities and other stakeholders and through this newsletter the forest protecting communities are sensitised on different forestry development issues and are brought together to evolve strategies to fight issues in community forestry. A forestry **news update** named as **Jangal Khabar**, is being published by the organisation and circulated among the gram panchayats, NGOs and selected government agencies. Apart from this, a **quarterly newsletter** in English known as **Community Forestry** is published to send the message on community forestry to a larger audience across world. Another NTFP **quarterly newsletter** is being produced by the organisation i.e. **Jhar Darab**. RCDC brings out occasional papers/booklets on different forestry related issues in order to create a dialogue among various stakeholders within the state and beyond. The centre now produces **NTFP product profiles** for the primary collectors' organisations and so far 22 booklets have been produced. Very recently the organisation has started publishing a **quarterly newsletter** in Oriya language on **governance** i.e. **Ama Panchayat Khabar**, which is being circulated to civil society organisations and PRIs in selected pockets in Orissa.

Advocacy and networking

At the State and regional level RCDC, along with others, is actively involved in advocacy and lobbying in order to bring changes in policies, legal framework, programmes and practices relating to natural resource management especially forest, land and water. At the regional level, in collaboration with other state level organisations, both govt. and private, RCDC is advocating for a uniform management and trade policy in the context of NTFP.

Support service and capacity building

It provides support services to primary groups, NGOs and Development Support Agencies on research, documentation, evaluation, training and capacity building etc.

NTFP/MAP market promotion

Since last two years, RCDC is engaged in creating an alternative marketing framework for NTFP to ensure greater returns to the primary collectors. Major activities under NTFP market promotion are

- Promotion of cooperatives/ federations for procurement, processing and trading of NTFP,
- Lobby with district administration and other stakeholders including the traders for market promotion boards/ initiatives at the district level,
- Providing information on technology and market to various sections of forest dependant communities, other agencies etc.
- Capacity building of primary collectors and their co-operatives for conservation, good harvesting practices and sustainable management of NTFP,
- Establishing interface between the federations/ cooperatives and traders/ marketing agencies etc.

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