



Usage pattern of Non timber forest products by forest dwellers in around Surhi range of Bilaspur district

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Key words ::

Since time immemorial, the forests provided variety of timber and non-timber forest products to human societies for their existence and livelihood. Non timber forest products (NTFPs) are also known as non-wood forest products and defined as goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from forests, other wooded lands and trees outside the forests, which include sources of plant and animal origin. It include fruits, flowers, tubers, bark, leaves, grasses, medicinal plants, mushrooms, seeds, nuts, rhizomes, corms, bamboo, firewood, fodder, fiber, oils, tannins, dyes, gums, resins, oleo-resins, honey, lac, shellac, skins, fishes, insects, horns etc. In India, nearly 500 million people living in and around forest depend on NTFPs as a critical component for their sustenance (World Resource Institute, 1990). In India, NTFPs provide about 40 percent of total official forest revenues and 55 percent of forest-based employment. NTFP contributes to about 20% to 40% of the annual income of forest dwellers who are mostly disadvantaged and landless communities with a dominant population of tribals. It provides then critical subsistence during the lean seasons, particularly for primitive tribal groups such as hunter gatherers, and the landless. Most of the NTFPs are collected and used/sold by women, so it has a strong linkage to women's financial empowerment in the forest-fringe areas. There are several states with luxuriant forests have high potential for exploiting NTFPs for improving the livelihoods and income generation. Edible Products

Beside this communities also depend on the edible products for meeting the dietary and nutritional needs. A sum total of 21 species represented by 16 families were collected and mostly used for domestic consumption. The rank order of families of edible species is as followed: Euphorbiaceae > Caesalpiniceae > Rhamnaceae > Leguminaceae > Arecaceae > Rubiaceae. Communities depend on the wild edible foods for meeting the dietary and nutritional needs.

Table 1 NTFP used for the edible purposes in and around Surhi range

S.No.	Common name	Botanical name	Family
1	Safed kikar	<i>Acacia leucophloea</i>	Leguminaceae
2	Kassihi	<i>Bridelia retusa</i>	Euphorbiaceae
3	Charota	<i>Cassia tora</i>	Caesalpiniceae
4	Tikhur	<i>Curcuma angustifolia</i>	Zingiberaceae
5	Nagarmotha	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	Cyperaceae
6	Baichandi	<i>Dioscorea hispida</i>	Dioscoreaceae
7	Lokandi	<i>Ixora arborea</i>	Rubiaceae

8	Chind	<i>Phoenix acaulis</i>	Arecaceae
9	Tamarind	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Caesalpiniceae
10	Vantulsi	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Labiataceae
11	Amla	<i>Emblica officinalis</i>	Euphorbiaceae
12	Jangali toot	<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	Moraceae
13	Lathi bans/Lathi bans	<i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i>	Gramineae
14	Ber	<i>Zizyphus jujuba</i>	Rhamnaceae
15	kurk	<i>Gardenia gummifera</i>	Euphorbiaceae
16	Jangle jalebi	<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i>	Mimosaceae
17	Honey combed mushroom	<i>Morchella esculenta</i>	Helvellaceae
18	Khumbi	<i>Agaricus campestris</i>	Agaricaceae
19	Ghont	<i>Zizyphus xylopyrus</i>	Rhamnaceae
20	Kachnar	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	Caesalpiniceae

Conclusion

Forest food are important for poorer group of rural area. They provide an available and accessible source of a diverse range of food. They do significantly supplement the overall nutritional quality of rural peoples diet. In general, the diverse group of NTFPs were used mainly for local subsistence and less used for trade, income generation. The scientific harvest methods and conservation of endangered NTFPs are suggested for sustainable development of NTFPs in the region.

REFERENCES

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