



## Status of Red Sanders in Business

### KEYWORDS

Red Sanders, Forest Development Corporation, Sustainable Development

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### ABSTRACT

*Red Sander (RS) is an endangered timber tree species, endemic to southern India. It grows in approximately 5160 km<sup>2</sup> of fragmented forest landscape of southern Andhra Pradesh, and in a few sporadic patches in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka states. The products of red sanders are as follows which are used for house furniture purpose and musical instruments. The demand for red sanders is very high in China and Japan...the smuggling of the crop, mostly confined to south Indian states, has increased by leaps and bounds Though red sander is "very little used" in India, in China and Japan these are used to make medicines, facial creams, furniture and perfumes, Increased demand for the wood in the global market is the reason for its large scale smuggling, The Andhra Pradesh Sandalwood And Red-Sanders Wood Transit Rules, 1969 laid down the following conditions for Import, Export and Movement. By bringing awareness and controlling the smuggling the valuable plant can be saved and business can be done, finally the fruits will be given to future generations.*

### INTRODUCTION:

Red Sander (RS) is an endangered timber tree species, endemic to southern India. It grows in approximately 5160 km<sup>2</sup> of fragmented forest landscape of southern Andhra Pradesh, and in a few sporadic patches in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka states. The wood is primarily used for making musical instruments and luxury furniture. It also yields Santaline dye which finds use in colouring foodstuff and pharmaceutical Preparations. Additionally, the extracts obtained from the tree bark and wood are known to have several medicinal properties. The tree can grow only in dry plains of India like Eastern Ghats and eastern plains of Karnataka like Kolar, Tumkur and Chitradurga. It grows in parts of Tirupati hills and Srisailem in Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh is the fifth largest State in Geographical area and the third largest State in Forest area in the Indian Union. Since last one decade most of the degraded areas have been reclubbed with the implementation of Community forest management programme through more than 7100 Vana Samrakshana Samithis. Red Sanders (pride of Andhra Pradesh) is growing in the Kadapa and Chittoor in large extents and in limited extent in the Nellore District. This species of wood is found, only in the A.P. State.

### GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES:

Red sander occurs in the forest formation which is classified as "5A/C3 Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests" as per champion and Seth Classification and falls in the eco-terrestrial region IM1301 Deccan Thorn Scub Forests and as well as IM0201 Central Deccan Plateau Dry Deciduous Forests. It generally found at altitudes of 150-900m. It grows on dry, hilly, often rocky ground, and occasionally found on precipitous hill sides also. It prefers lateritic and gravelly soil and cannot tolerate water logging. In natural habitat the tree experiences hot, dry climate with normal rainfall of 88-105 cm received from north-east and south-west monsoons. Red Sanders has a highly restrictive distribution in the South Eastern portion of Indian peninsula to which it is endemic. The Palakinda and Seshachalam hill ranges of Cuddapah-Chittoor districts of state of Andhra Pradesh are its principal geographical range which extends slightly into the neighbouring Anantapur, Kurnool, Prakasam and Nellore Districts of Andhra Pradesh. These forests are found in the inner slopes on Veligonda hills of Tirupati and Srikalahasti ranges, between the altitudes of 300m (about 1000 feet) and 600m (about 2000 feet). The upper canopy is a closed but uneven and not very dense. It is formed by a mixture of trees, which are deciduous during the dry season for several months, through some are

for a short period only. "*Pterocarpus Santalinus*" (Red Sanders) is conspicuously predominant, sometimes forming pure consociations here and there Sporadic wild populations occur in the adjoining districts of the neighbouring states of TN and Karnataka. The red sanders bearing formations are estimated to extend over approximately 5160 Km<sup>2</sup> in its principal geographical range. About 23% of red sanders formation is dense, 34% has moderate cover and the remaining is open.

### PRODUCT OF RED SANDERS:

The products of red sanders are as follows which are used for house furniture purpose and musical instruments.



**IMPORTANCE OF BUSINESS:**

Red sander had the prominent importance in the business. Research initiatives are under way to exploit its potential application in soaps, dyes, toys etc. Despite a ban on exploitation and sale, good quality red sanders fetched any price between Rs 3 lakh and Rs 4 lakh per tonne in the global market, while the inferior type was sold as fuel wood like other timbers red sanders, unique to the forest areas of Cuddapah, Chittoor and Nellore districts in Andhra Pradesh, has been the much sought after wood by illegal traders, who smuggled it to distant lands, especially Japan. Now through the sustained efforts of the Andhra Pradesh State Forest Department, there is hope of it being raised as a plantation species. The confident of sizable earnings as red sanders have good demand in foreign countries like China, Japan, Myanmar, where they are used for medicinal purposes. In the State they are being raised on five acres in Kadapa, Chittoor, Nellore and Kurmool districts. The demand for red sanders is very high in China and Japan...the smuggling of the crop, mostly confined to south Indian states, has increased by leaps and bounds. Though red sander is "very little used" in India, in China and Japan these are used to make medicines, facial creams, furniture and perfumes. Increased demand for the wood in the global market is the reason for its large scale smuggling,

**STATUS OF BUSINESS IN ECONOMY:**

A careful analysis reveals that current restricted trade policy of under CITES is incentivizing, directly or indirectly, illegal logging of RS from the public forests to meet international demand. For example, the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department (APFD) alone seized about 3,067 t of RS wood<sup>1</sup> during 2001–2007. The sale of such seized wood by the state(s) is the only legal supply across the globe (APFD, 2009). However, the quantity sold is grossly inadequate to meet the annual estimated demand of 3,000 t (Mulliken and Crofton, 2008). Further, the supply of wood from the private landowners is very limited. In view of the continued illegal removals and the seizures of smuggled RS wood from different parts of India and abroad, the failure of the restricted trade policy is evident. This is not surprising since in developing countries the communities are directly dependent on forests for livelihood and therefore, trade restrictions are often difficult to implement in practice (Swanson et al., 1993). Other than non-timber forest products, the local communities do not receive any direct benefits from the RS forests. Further, there are no conservation-driven incentives for the people in the existing RS policy, which is also delineating the local communities from these forests. Although there is hardly any local demand for the RS wood, international demand is always high (GOI, 2011), and this situation has encouraged the illegal trade. The CITES restrictions are known to delineate communities from legal resource use, and often significantly increases the value of the species and its derivatives, thereby encouraging further loss (Rivalan et al., 2007). Under these circumstances, promotion of sustainable RS wood trade might be a more prudent choice for the conservation of this species. Towards this, in addition to scientifically and sustainably managing public forests for RS wood, strategies such as encouraging the private landowners to grow RS on private lands may be helpful in reducing the demand-supply gap.

Besides this, the Andhra Pradesh Department of Environment and Forests today directed the AP Forest Development Corporation (FDC) to facilitate sale of some grades of the much sort after Red Sanders wood at Rs 2.2 lakh a tonne. Zatan Trading Corporation, Andhra Fogaku and Power Grip Resources had indicated to the State Government their intention to purchase this rare variety of Red Sanders wood. They wanted an early decision as there was the possibility of securing permission from the Centre for allowing export of sawn sizes. With this development, APFDC will now serve as an agent of the State Government for the disposal and monitoring the export of non-grade and C grade Red Sanders wood. The State Government in its order has also made it

clear that if the successful tendered desires to lift the material before securing permission of the Government of India, it is allowed strictly on its own risk. However, this is subject to the condition that the transport permits shall be issued for the movement of Red Sanders wood tendered within the State.

But during the last 4 to 5 years, large scale seizures of Red Sanders Wood are reported mostly from sea ports and border areas of our country with the help of customs and army authorities, though RS wood is mostly found in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The forest departments of other states are frequently reminding the State Government of AP to send expert officers from AP to their states to suggest grading, classification and the sale and export procedure. The procedure of sale of RS wood and its export to other countries are not known to the forest departments of other states. To have a detailed picture of conservation, production, classification, sale procedure and export policy of Government of India on Red Sanders are described in this article to have a first hand knowledge of the RS business and its export to other countries.

Acts to protect Red Sanders: The Andhra Pradesh Sandalwood And Red-Sanders Wood Transit Rules, 1969 laid down the following conditions for Import, Export and Movement : -

1. No person shall import sandalwood, sandalwood chips, sandalwood powder or red-sanders wood, red-sanders wood chips, red-sanders wood powder into, or export sandalwood chips, sandalwood powder or red-sanders wood, red-sander wood chips, red-sanders wood powder from, or move sandalwood or red-sanders wood within, any place in the whole of the State, unless such sandalwood or red-sanders wood is accompanied by a permit prescribed in Rule 4.
2. No piece of the wood and other materials specified in sub-rule (1) or bags containing saw dust or chips of such wood shall be transported unless they bear and authorized marking or seal of the Government as provided in Rule 7.

**According to The Andhra Pradesh Forest Offences (Compounding and Prosecution) Rules - 1969**

1. The forest produce seized may be kept in the safe custody of the Forest Guard or Forest Watcher and a Certificate to that effect shall be obtained in [Form-C]
2. The report of seizure of the forest produce shall be submitted immediately, to the next superior officer as well and Divisional Forest Officer as prescribed in [Form-B]
3. An enquiry into a forest offence shall be held by an officer not below the rank of a "Deputy Range Officer or Forester".
4. Every accused who expresses his willingness to have the offence compounded as provided in Rule 4 shall forthwith give a written undertaking in that regard in [Form 'D']
5. In case the value of forest produce, seized is less than 2[Rs.50,000 (Rupees Fifty Thousand)] and where the accused does not to for compounding the offence, or the competent authority does not choose to compound the offences the Forest Range Officer may order the prosecution of the accused. In all other cases, where the accused does not choose to compound the offence, the Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Managers of Primary Marketing Societies under the administrative control of Girijan Cooperative Corporation Limited or the Divisional Forest Officer may order the prosecution of the accused.

**MEASURES TO DEVELOP RED SANDERS BUSINESS**

1. The Red Sanders are being important luxurious plant products it should be declared as reserve plant to take protection measures by all the states in the country.
2. All the protective legislations should be implemented strictly.
3. The changes should be done as per time whenever nec-

essary to check smuggling etc.

4. There should be bringing of awareness among people about the importance of Res sanders and its business and for achievement of sustainable development.
5. Long gestation crop, lack of Incentives, small land holdings, administrative complexities, and competition from commercial agriculture crops were identified as the main challenges. They should be checked.
6. A sustainable wood trade policy formulated by incorporating stakeholders' perceptions may help in improving the conservation status of this endangered species.

**CONCLUSION:**

As the human luxurious wants are growing day by day, the danger to red sanders is increasing. By bringing awareness and controlling the smuggling the valuable plant can be saved and business can be done, finally the fruits will be given to future generations also.

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