



# Problems and Possibilities of Non-Timber Forest Products in Tribal's

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## Abstract

Development involves not just planning for a better future but also using lessons from the past in order to improve the present, not just for people but also for the environment and the next generation. Chhattisgarh has a population of 2,55,45,198, or 2.11% of the country's total population, according to the 2011 census. There is a total of 31 tribal clans in Chhattisgarh, five of which are extremely primitive. Beyond providing for fundamental needs, NTFPs are crucial. Another market segment that is expanding quickly is NTFPs. NTFP trade is projected to be worth \$1,100 million USD globally, and during the past few years, the market has increased by around 22% annually. The respondents (96%) noted that their main issue was the low and erratic market price of NTFPs, which was followed by the bad weather conditions and the lack of a developed market infrastructure for NTFPs (91%), injuries brought on by wild animal attacks (86%), deforestation (81%), excessive NTFP collection by outsiders (75%), and obstacles resulting from forest rules and regulations in the collection of NTFPs from restricted forest areas (56%). Other issues mentioned by the respondents included a lack of NTFP marketing transportation facilities (49%), a lack of skill-oriented training programmes related to NTFP collection, processing, and marketing (43%), a lack of subsidies and bonuses on all NTFPs (40%), a lack of timely market information about NTFPs (35%), a lack of good road connectivity between villages and markets (28%), and a lack of reasonably priced storage facilities (28%). The Chhattisgarh government intends to make efforts to increase the income of NTFP and MFP gatherers, as well as to give them better infrastructure and train them in ways they can add value to the products and develop as a separate sector of the economy. However, this will be done in a planned and organized manner.

**Key words:** NTFPs, tribes, market price and market infrastructure, Sustainable Development and herbs, agro-climatic zone

## Introduction

Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) are important tools for addressing poverty issues for the marginalized, forest dependent communities, by contributing to livelihoods, including food security, income, health and sustainable human development. The products other than timber but useful to human being were called as

minor forest products (MFP). Later, it was realized that the nomenclature gave an erroneous impression that these products are of lesser importance. So currently they are called by two different names Non timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs). NWFPs exclude fuel wood. NTFPs form an integral part of the economy of the tribal. Tribal's are given the right and concession for collection of NTFPs from forests. India is a veritable storehouse of NTFPs. NTFPs include a vast wealth available from a broad spectrum of biomass obtained from leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds, stems, roots and barks providing for most human needs of food, shelter, clothing and a wide range of the other items. The tribal societies are multi-ethnic, multilingual and multicultural. They are mostly illiterates with deep-seated ignorance, abysmal poverty and unsettled life style with improper health. The tribals are mainly dependent on forest for their food and livelihood. The structure of tribal economy is forest based. Under the colonial administration and in the first few decades of independence, commercial timber extraction thrived as the major. Source of revenue from forest. This operation also provided continuous employment to tribal. With rapid depletion of forest cover, it was realized that forests in any part of the globe could be crucial to the overall healthy existence of the planet. Rules were thus enacted in many countries especially in the tropics to protect the forest cover from over exploitation. NTFPs are significant sources of subsistence products, employment and household income in areas near forest especially during the slack seasons. The revenues earned by forest departments from NTFPs have been rising steadily with more use of hitherto unknown plant species for human welfare. As timber diminishes in importance as a source of revenue from the natural forests, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) have emerged as a lucrative option. The extractions of NTFPs are significant in terms of revenue earning potential to the government and tribal economy and there exists a close link between NTFPs and tribals.

NTFP trade is projected to be worth \$1,100 million USD globally, and during the past few years, the market has increased by around 22% annually. Future NTFP development has the ability to boost revenue, open up new options, and diversify business ventures in tribal regions. Many rural entrepreneurs find the task of starting a business using non-timber forest products to be appealing. Forest non-timber products offer a chance to diversify and increase revenue. Opportunities for a range of rural businesses that include value-added processing, packaging, and trade in addition to farming and harvesting. The respondents (95.56%) noted that their main issue was the low and erratic market price of NTFPs, which was followed by the bad weather conditions and the lack of a developed market infrastructure for NTFPs (91%), injuries brought on by wild animal attacks (86%), deforestation (81%), excessive NTFP collection by outsiders (75%), and obstacles resulting from forest rules and regulations in the collection of NTFPs from restricted forest areas (56%). Other issues mentioned by the respondents included a lack of NTFP marketing transportation facilities (48.89%), a lack of skill-oriented training programmes related to NTFP collection, processing, and marketing (43%), a lack of subsidies and bonuses on all NTFPs (40%), a lack of timely market information about NTFPs (35%), a lack of good road connectivity between villages and markets (28%), and a lack of reasonably priced storage facilities (28%). The Chhattisgarh government intends to make efforts to increase the income of NTFP and MFP gatherers, as well as to give them better infrastructure and train them in ways they can add value to the products and develop as a separate sector of the economy. However, this will be done in a planned and organised manner.

## Literature Review

Forest products are divided into two categories: minor and major. Timber and fuel wood are two of the most important forest products. Minor Forest Produce refers to all other products that are naturally available but useful to humans, either for direct consumption or in processed form (MFPs). MFP encompasses a wide range of forest products, including medicinal herbs, edible plants, drugs, spices, insecticides, essential oils, fatty oils, gums and resins, fibres and flosses, bamboo and cane, beedi leaves, honey, lac and shellac, and silk, among others. Forest products other than wood for timber, pulp wood, and fuel have been loosely defined as MFPs. The foresters were based on the forest department's meagre revenue in comparison to timber and wood. A review of previous studies on the subject will be useful in specifying the concepts that will be relevant in the study's conduct.

Gera and Baghel (2000) evaluated the value and utilization of NTFPs to people living in villages in Orissa, India. The proportion of village income generated by NTFPs was about 11 per cent, much collection and marketing of NTFPs was primarily undertaken by women and the activity which most villagers engaged in the collection of Kendu leaves. Mulloy and Ottitsch (2000) explained the full value of forests on the socioeconomic and rural community aspects including wood and non-wood forest products. Ros-Tonen (2000) mentioned that the NTFPs improved the livelihood of forest dwelling peoples and their potential for participatory forest management in the tropics. Gupta et al (2000) observed that tendu leaves are collected through primary cooperative minor forest produce societies and stored in godowns. Thereafter it was auctioned to traders themselves took up the processing of NTFPs, whereby they gained extra income, even after the season was over. Thus, the value addition of MFP gave additional employment and income to the tribals.

Mitchell et al. (2003) concentrated on the expanded creation, utilization and exchanging of NTFPs as an advancement procedure to enhance the occupations of forest dependent population in eastern India. Ankila J. Hiremath (2004) Researcher discussed the natural impacts of reaping NTFP can be fluctuated, and the impacts can run from the level of qualities to people and populations, groups and biological communities, all of which have critical results. At one amazing, the adjustment of the hereditary organization of wild population from rehashed specific harvest of the greatest, or most profitable, people can exhaust the energy of the wild quality pool. This thus can bargain the long-haul survival of the species; it can likewise trade off the life of tamed and developed population of species drawn from such drained wild stocks. At the other great, harvest of certain NTFP can prompt biological system corruption, for instance, supplement exhaustion from the fare of a lot of supplement rich plant parts Regina Hansda (2009) examined the fate of forests (and by augmentation the part of Non-Wood Forest Products [NWFPs]) is a rising field of worldwide enquiry. of course, or by outline, the poorest population in many nations live in remote forested regions; the vast majority of them to some degree rely on NWFPs for sustenance, prescription, filaments, social artefact, and so on. Population in and around forested regions are progressively being subjected to changes brought on by globalization financial development, demographic movements and the improvement of innovation. These and different advancements are showing the forest-subordinate

groups with new chances to participate in exchange and additionally preservation. Granting of tenure rights to forest communities in recent years will further enhance this possibility. Government of India (2015) highlighted the far reaching point of interest on Indian forest Cover, state shrewd forest scope, similar examination on the forest scope throughout theyears, Forest spread in various thickness class, it additionally contains evaluations ofdeveloping stock inside and outside forest regions, carbon stock and other essential attributesof forest and it likewise highlighted the new activities taken by forest study of India and other vital components in its annual forest report. Raju (2016) emphasis the regulation on collectionand Marketing of Minor Forest products through LAMPS and given List of MFP authorized to collect from the forest and highlights the forest rules in the collection and marketing of MFPs especially in the reserve forest. Phanith Chou (2018) discussed the fundamental issue in this study is to confirm whether or not the extraction of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) will encourage additional pro-conservation behavior from local people.

The present study is defined as a state of getting engaged in physical or mental activitiesin coordination with other resources in order to collect and market NTFP.

## Study Area

In this study we were selected four blocks Gariyaband, Chhura, Maipur and Nagri. In eachblock we were selected two villages. All 120 families were selected from 8 villages.

## Methodology

Fifteen NTFPs collecting farmers were selected randomly from each selected village. Thus, the total 120 tribes ( $8 \times 15 = 120$ ) were considered as respondents for this study. Structured scheduled was used for primary data collection. Recorder and camera were used for personal and group interview.

## Objectives

- To study the importance of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in Tribals ofChhattisgarh.
- To study the Problems of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in Tribals ofChhattisgarh.
- To study the Possibilities of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in Tribals ofChhattisgarh.

## Importance

Individual forest ecosystems provide such a wide range of protective, scientific, and commercial services, including living space and food, as well as climate regulation and geneticresources. At the national level, countries are interested in their entire forest system and how it contributes to national development collectively as a source of goods and services, forms of insurance against excessive risk, and economic and social assets.

- Revenue sources, foreign exchange, and financial equity
- Rural income sources
- National asset shares
- Biodiversity is provided by ecological systems.
- Infrastructure
- Energy sources of potentially tradable global services
- Heritage culture

## Problems and possibility

**Table 1:** Problems faced by the respondents in the collection and marketing of NTFPs. (n=120)

S.N.	Particular	Frequency	%
1	Existence of bad weather	113	94
2	Injury caused by attack of wild animals	103	86
3	Obstruction caused by forest rule and regulations in collection of NTFPs from restricted forest area	67	56
4	Over collection of NTFPs by outsiders	90	75
5	Low and fluctuated market price of NTFPs	115	96
6	Lack of developed market infrastructure for NTFPs	109	91
7	Lack of transport facilities for marketing of NTFPs	59	49
8	Lack of low-cost storage facilities	34	28
9	Lack of skill-oriented training programme related to collection, processing and marketing of NTFPs	51	43
10	Lack of availability of timely market information about NTFPs	42	35
11	Lack of good road connectivity of villages with market	32	27
12	Lack of subsidy and bonus on all NTFPs	48	40
13	Deforestation	97	81

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents based on the difficulties they encountered in the collection and marketing of NTFPs. The result shows that majority of the respondents 96 percent pointed out that they were dealing with the issue of low and fluctuated marketprice of NTFPs primarily followed by existence of bad weather and lack of developed market infrastructure for NTFPs 94 percent, injury caused by attack of wild animals 86 percent, deforestation 81 percent, over collection of NTFPs by outsiders 75 percent and obstruction caused by forest rule and regulations in collection of NTFPs from restricted forest area 56 percent. Lack of transport facilities for marketing of NTFPs 49 percent, lack of skill- oriented training programme related to collection, processing and marketing of NTFPs 43 percent, lack of subsidy and bonus on all NTFPs 40 percent, lack of availability of timely market information about NTFPs 35 percent, lack of good road connectivity of villages with market 27 percent and lack of low-cost storage facilities 28 percent were also reported as other problems faced by the respondents.

**Table 2:** Suggestions given by the respondents to overcome the problems faced by them in the collection and marketing of NTFPs.

S.N.	Particular	Frequency	%
1	Flexibility in forest rule and regulations for NTFPs collection	67	56
2	Checking of over collection of NTFPs by outsiders	82	68

3	Selling prices of various NTFPs should be fixed by the government	101	84
4	Purchasing of all NTFPs by government should be assured	103	86
5	Low-cost storage facility should be provided	35	29
6	Regular training programme should be organized for skill development incollection, processing and marketing of NTFPs	55	46
7	Development of existing market infrastructure by the government formarketing of NTFPs	115	96
8	Availability of transport facilities for marketing of NTFPs	56	47
9	Good road connectivity of villages with market	36	30
10	Availability of timely market information about NTFPs	41	34
11	Government should provide subsidy and bonus on all NTFPs	51	43
12	Deforestation should be checked	103	86

Table 2 displays the suggestions pointed out by the respondents to overcome the problems faced by them in the collection and marketing of NTFPs with priority. It portrays that majority of the respondents 96 percent suggested for development of existing market infrastructure by the government for marketing of NTFPs; followed by 86 percent respondents suggested for deforestation should be checked, 86 percent respondents for purchasing of all NTFPs by government should be assured, 84 percent respondents for selling prices of various NTFPs should be fixed by the government, 68 percent respondents for checking of over collection of NTFPs by outsiders and 56 percent respondents for flexibility in forest rule and regulations for NTFPs collection. About 47 percent respondents were also suggested about availability of transport facilities for marketing of NTFPs, 46 percent respondents for regular training programme should be organized for Skill

Development in collection, processing and marketing of NTFPs, 43 percent respondents for government should provide subsidy and bonus on all NTFPs, 34 percent respondents for availability of timely market information about NTFPs, 30 percent respondents for good road connectivity of villages with market and 29 percent of respondents suggested for low cost storage facilities should be provided.

## Conclusion

The NTFPs show a significant role because they are a source of medicine, income, and employment. However, due to prevailing issues such as low and fluctuating market prices, a lack of developed markets, and the presence of bad weather, collection and marketing of NTFPs are significantly disrupted. Respondents were not receiving remunerative prices for their NTFPs due to poor market infrastructure and fluctuating market prices. Sustainable forest resource management, as well as improved harvesting and processing techniques, are required to improve people's livelihoods and thus improve the use of NTFPs. The government

must take the necessary steps to eliminate the existing problems encountered by respondents in the study area. In this context, suggestions obtained from respondents to overcome these problems should be incorporated into the government's strategies to solve such problems.

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