

CONSTRAINTS IN NTFP VALUE ADDITION, Case Study of Blocks of Mandla and Dindori Districts

Background

Non – timber forest products, contributing importantly to the livelihoods of tribals, land less women and other rural poor, are sold mostly in raw form and therefore, not remunerative. In several studies it has been concluded that processing and value addition at primary collectors level increases the earning from NTFP 4 to 5 times. Simple value addition measures such as cleaning, washing, drying, grading, packing etc also reveals in increase in returns to gatherers by 2 to 3 time. However, all such efforts of value addition have been seriously constrained by absence of specific policy at national and state levels and further aggravated by complex network of forestry, environment and revenue departments legislations. What is required, therefore, is to formulate altogether separate legislation both at centre and state levels to secure smooth functioning of NTFP collection efforts. **Against this background the above mentioned study has been undertaken in mandla and Dindori districts of Madhya Pradesh inhabited predominantly by tribals.**

Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows : -

- Types of product being gathered and quantity.
- Marketing of product.
- Difficultly in accessing the forest.
- Constraints from government employees.
- Income received from collection of NTFP.
- Training received for collection of NTFP.
- The prevalence of transport pass.
- The usual place of NTFP transaction and their rates.
- The extent of convergence of NTFP with NRLM.
- The storage facility of NTFP.

Methodology

The methodology adopted is collection of primary information from

- Gatherers of NTFP.
- Traders of NTFP.

The format regarding gatherers mainly consists of :-

- Number of household members gathering NTFP and the purpose and species of collection.
- If for sale, then where sold.
- The quantity gathered per day and risk of accessibility.
- Annual income from sale of NTFP.
- Availability of micro finance.
- Awareness about marketing initiatives being undertaken by government for sale of NTFP.

The format regarding traders consists of following parameters :-

- Type of NTFP purchased
- Rate of purchase per kg.
- The requirement of transport pass.

- The place of sale of product.
- Purchase done through SHG.
- The awareness about NRLM.
- Availability of storage facility.
- Availability of training facility regarding NTFP.
- The attitude of forest department towards transaction of NTFP.

The Sampling Frame :-

The table below shows the details :-

S.No.	Name of District	Mandla, Dindori
1	Numbers of blocks	Mandla - 2, Dindori - 1
2	Numbers of gatherers	Mandla - 49, Ghughri - 34, Dindori - 160
3	Numbers of Traders	Mandla - 60 (Block Ghughri)

The Way Forward

At G P level processing units can be organized where the gatherers may bring their produce for value addition. The difficulty in accessing the dense forest may be removed through joint efforts of forest and revenue departments. Regarding marketing of NTFP, the G P may collect the produce at one place and may arrange the sale in mandi. The convergence of NTFP activities with programmes like NRLM, SGSSY, and MGNREGS etc. may be explored. It has been seen that any programme of marginal nature is not taken up seriously unless it is linked up with bigger programme. The storage facility at GP level may be developed where both gatherers and traders may store their produce. The Forest Department may arrange proper training for both gatherers and traders regarding activities of NTFP.