

Corporate Initiatives Fortribal Community Development in The Karnataka State Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPS) Sector: Scope and Strategies

RAVI KUMAR. H. B

*Asst. Professor & Hod, Dept. of Business Administration, Government First Grade College, Hullahalli,
Karnataka*

INTRODUCTION

The Term Non Timber Forest Product Encompasses All Biological Materials Other Than Timber Which Are Extracted From Natural Forest For Human Use.

These Include Foods, Medicines, Ornamental Plants, Wildlife, Fuel wood And Raw Materials, Notably Rattan, Bamboo, Smallwood and Fibers’, As Well As Animal Products From The Mangrove And Marine Eco System (De Beer And Dermott1996)

Non timber forest products classification in India

Group I Ntfps of plant origin	Ntfps of animal origin	Ntfps of mineral origin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edible plant products • Spices and condiments • Medicinal plants-aromatic plants • Fatty oil yield plants • Gum and resin exuding plants • Tan yield plants • Dye and color yield plants • Fiber and floss yield plants • Bamboo-canes • Fodder and forage • Fuel wood and charcoal making • Bidi wrapper leaves • Other leaves fur plates • Beads for ornaments • Saponin and marking nut plant-other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honey and bees wax • Lac and shellac • Tussar and other silk • Insects and animal-hides, skins And feathers • Horns, bones and shellac-ivory and musk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mica, sand, gravel • Other minerals
		<p>Group -II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services-tourism, recreation, wild life

It is estimated that 275 million poor rural people in India—27 percent of the total population—depend on NTFPs for at least part of their subsistence and cash livelihoods (Malhotra & Bhattacharya, 2010; Bhattacharya & Hayat, 2009). This dependency is particularly intense for half of India’s 89 million tribal people, the most disadvantaged section of society, who live in forest fringe areas. According to an estimate the NTFP sector alone is able to create about 10 million workdays annually in the country.

Historically, the NTFP sector was neglected for many decades from main stream forestry, and they were considered as ‘minor’ (Minor Forest Produce), despite the fact that monopoly rights over several such NTFPs/MFPs fetched a good income for the Forest Department. After the ban on green felling, the income

from NTFPs in the total income of the Department became the major one with that from timber marginalized, in many states. Export of NTFPs and its products contributes 68% of the total export from forestry sector.

NTFPs have a tremendous potential to involve local collectors for establishing micro-, small- and medium enterprises through clear tenured rights, better collection methods, financial support, capacity development, infrastructure and institutional support in near future. With these efforts there is a potential to create large scale employment opportunity thereby, helping in reducing poverty and increasing empowerment of particularly women, tribal and poor people of the Poorest and backward districts of the country

NTFPs IN INDIA

FOREST POLICIES IN INDIA:

State initiated forest management in India dates back to 1855 and the declaration of a charter of Indian forests. The forest policies of 1894, 1927, and 1952 all enacted since the first forest act of 1865, were largely directed towards timber production (Guha 1983, 1989) despite some cosmetic changes, the focus of the post colonial state's forest policies has also been timber, and policies have been and timber continued to be the major tradable forest item on which management relied to generate revenue. Although community forestry in India developed impressively in the 1980s it was primarily structured around the production of small timber and fuel wood (Nesmith 1991). It was only in the 1988 forest policy that definite guidelines for developing ntfps were issued. These policy guidelines will not achieve their specific objectives unless they are translated into specific goal oriented strategies at state level forestry, where national forest policies are implemented and where many previous policy recommendations have not been pursued with vigor or success.

The forestry sector in India is part of the concurrent list of the constitution which is to say that it is a subject under the dual control of state and central government, where state forestry units control and manage the forests within constraints of a national forest policy.

Motivated by revenue and industrial concerns while reserved forest (RF) were and often are managed for timber firewood and bamboo production on mainly commercial grounds. Other categories of state-controlled forest lands-variously 'protected forests' 'village forests' zamindari forests' and 'private forests' amounting to 34 million hectares-were left to meet the forest needs of local people. usually without the systems of scientific management practiced in the reserved forests or investment to enrich the depleting stock. The contribution of the misleadingly named 'minor forest products' (MFPs the umbrella term for forest products other than timber and firewood) was not yet appreciated in the forestry sector of India prior to 1970 very few states had procedures to govern the exploitation of NTFPS although most had rules for timber extraction and marketing.

There was plenty of official activity or talk about the importance of what are now called NTFPS. As early as 1961, the report of the Devar Commission urged state governments to make provision for intensive collection and local processing of mfps. The committee on tribal economy in forest areas (1967) also rewarded the establishment of forest corporations and tribal development co-operative, co-operations for the collection processing and marketing of mfps and the National commission on development of Backward Areas (1981) Emphasized the necessity of research on mfps and the Propagation of selected NTFP Species. The National Report of the Committee on Forestry and Poverty alleviation (1984) likewise recommended the identification of new MFP resources tapping techniques, refining chemicals modification and the introduction of superior varieties of plants yielding so called mfps (Tewari, 1993).

But these recommendations have very little impact on forest planning and management in most states where, until recently the priority was on accumulation of revenues through logging of natural and planted forests.

Management and Economic Significance of Ntfps In India.

India possess a rich bounty of ntfps in is 64 MHz of State Managed forests Over 50% of forest revenues and 70% of forest export income come from ntfps (Shiva, 1994) In India, the major source of both self-employment and indirect employment in forest is the collection, processing and sale of a wide range of ntfps.

Although the designation 'Minor' may give the impression that this subsector is of low value, in 1986 NTFP accounted for almost 40% of forest department revenues, 75% of the net export earnings from forests secure revenues and 75% of net export earnings from forest produce. Small scale forest produce small scale forest based enterprises many of them reliant on ntfps provide up to 50% of income for 20-30 percent rural labor force in India (Campbell 1994). Of the total wage employment in the the forestry sector Ntfps perhaps account for more than 70%. (Gupta and Fuleraia 1982). More important is the opportunity for self employment which these enterprises provide to the forest dwellers, recently estimated at 3.3 millions

person years .India’s state governments earn roughly 2000 million per annum from the ntfp trade in the form of royalty fees. Sales profit license and so on.

Back Ground to Karnataka: NTFP Sector.

Karnataka is state of diverse cultures languages and faiths and the economic and social scenario within the state, in many ways mirrors the scenario prevalent in the county itself. Located in the southern part of India between the latitudes 11.31 and 18.45 north and the longitude 74.12 and 78.40 east, Karnataka is in terms of population. The ninth largest state among India’s 30 major states and 7 union territories.

Geographical traits:

The state has an area of 1,91,791sq Kms, which constitutes 5.83% of the total geographical area of India. Karnataka has four natural regions the west coast, the Western Ghats (Malnad) the northern maiden and the southern maiden. Western Ghats region is of prime important for our study since the districts covered under research come in western Ghats belt which includes the districts of Chikamangluru, Kodgu, Shimoga and the uplands of Daksinakannada, Udupi Belguam and Dharawad districts’.

Forests of Karnataka :

- Most of the dense forests are located along Western Ghats region of Karnataka 60% of the WesternGhats are located in Karnataka.
- Karnataka state has a recorded forest area of 43,356.45 sq.km which is 22.60% of the total Geographical area of the state.
- The land actually covered by forest is 33,238.47 sqkms which constitutes 17.33% of the total geographical area.
- Home of world famous sandalwood and rosewood trees, supports 25% of India’s elephant population and 10% tiger population

Forest area as per legal definition:

S.N.	Type	Extent
1	Reserve Forest	29,550.19
2	Protected forest	3,585.22
3	Village Forests	49.05
4	Unclassified Forests	10,117.92
5	Private Forests	54.07
Source ForestDept website Karnataka total		43,356.45

Ntfps Production in Karnataka.

In Karnataka Collection of ntfps is being entrusted to Tribal Societies wherever these exist. There are 19 such Tribal Societies in Karnataka .Wherever the societies do not exist the leases for ntfp collection are granted through tender – Cum – auction sale. There about 70 to 80 various ntfps available in Karnataka. The major ntfps collected in Karnataka are bidi leaves, honey. Wax, Tamarind seegekai, cashew nut, alalekai, antwalkai, fruits, rosha grass , gum, halmaddi, nellikai, ivory, muruganahuliamssole, vatehuli, rampatra, uppigehuli and others. The volume of these officially extracted ntfps is RS 37 corer during the year 2003-04 apart from these officially collected ntfps the local people who live in the vicinity of the forest collect variety of the forest of the ntfps. These ntfps collected by rural and tribal people are not included in the contribution of the forests to state economy.

Recorded NTFP production in Karnataka for the year 2019-20.

Name Of NTFP	Production In Tones
Beedi Leaves	342.08
Charcoal	-
Honey	474.33
Wax	406.08
Fruits	-
Nellikai	203.00
Kapnehuli	35.25
Kasaga	6.12
Kai Saraka	13.50
Seegekai	293.79
Halmad oil	6.91
Cashew	139.90
Alaekai	242.00
Rama patre	26.40
Vatehuli	13.20
SuragiHoovu	27.21
Uppigehuli	631.02
Tamrind	403.83
Dalchinn leaves	583.42
Ganape kai	32.30
Muruganhuli	214.68
Amsole	87.50
Antuvala kai	299.30
Maradapachi	22.16

Gum	3.30
Rosha grass	1.60
Dupadarala	1.30
Murugalu	69.31
Cistradora	10.00

Source: Karnataka State Forest Annual Report.

Tribal's In Karnataka: General Information:

Total area of state	1,91,743 sq km
Forest area of the state	38,284 .59 sq km
No of Districts'	30
Total population of state (2001 census)	5,2733.938
S.T. population (2001)	34.641 lacs
Literacy among ST (2001)	48.3.%
No of Integrated Tribal Development programs	05 Mysore Chamrajanagara Kodagu Dakshina Kannada Udupi Chikkamangaluru

Source: HRD Karnataka Report 2005

The tribal people living in hilly forest areas depend heavily on ntfps for their livelihood as much as 50% of the income of the soliga tribe in Chamrajnagar district, for example comes from the collection of MFP.

Large scale Adivasi multi-purpose societies (LAMPS) were formed in the late 1970 with tribal people as members, to market NTFP procured from the forests by the tribal people. It also supplies essential food items and consumer items to its members. At present there are 21 lamp societies in Karnataka with 42,182 tribal families in the jurisdiction only 25,504 out of 63,558 Members are active.

NTFPs as industrial raw materials:

Indian industries have been sourcing their raw materials from the rich & diverse non-timber forest product resources of the country since long. As detailed below they use either one or more of these products and are in some cases almost exclusively or critically dependent on the same:

- Paper industry: Bamboo (critical), sabai grass
- Bidi industry: Tenduleaf (critical)
- Lac processing industries: Lac (critical)

- Leather industry: Chebulicmyrobalan and some other natural tan-stuff from forest
- Pharmaceuticals: Wide range of NTFPs used (critical in some cases, like *Boswelliaserrata* cream produced by CIPLA)
- Cosmetics: Wide range of NTFPs used (critical in some cases)
- Agarbatti industry: bamboo stick, glutinous bark, sal resin, guggul, etc. (critical)
- Vanaspati industry: mahua oil, sal seed oil, etc.
- Bio-fuel industry: karanj seed, etc.

The confectionary industry uses or can also use various NTFPs like chironjee, and the chocolate industry would be able to use sal seed butter and other cocoa butter equivalents produced from NTFPs once the Food Adulteration Act is amended to that effect. Besides there are a number of cottage industries depending upon NTFPs. They produce natural dyes, and decorative items, etc.

Role of the corporate sector in NTFP development:

While the corporate sector has been keen on ensuring supply of NTFPs that are critical to it, it has rather taken a defensive position so far utilization of the vast potential of the NTFP sectors concerned. That is to say, it has remained dependent on the clues known to it or made available to it through R&D, and has not done much on its own to develop this sector. However, now that the Planning Commission has decided to focus on Natural Resource Development along with NTFPs, there is a strong scope for the corporate sector to contribute to this national initiative so as to promote an alternative source of employment & livelihood in lieu of harnessing the potential of the growing natural products market in the world. The corporate sector can invest in developing the NTFP sector for and in the following areas:

- Securing existing raw material supply:
For instance insecure supply of glutinous bark (producing *jigat* powder, a binding agent) for agarbatti industry has been a matter of concern since many years. In July 2000 the Federation of Indian Export Organizations openly shared this

Developing new products through R&D:

Intensive & well-conceived R&D activities can discover how the inherent properties of natural products can be utilized for the benefit of humanity.

Further, it can also invent mechanisms to give new dimensions to the material properties. And such type of focused, well-targeted and dynamic R&D work is more expected from the corporate sector.

- Using NTFPs for low-cost& eco-friendly pollution control measures under CleanDevelopment Mechanism (CDM):

Studies have shown that natural products can provide lowcost, co-friendly solutions to pollution, particularly for treatment of industrial effluents. Recently one such mechanism was adopted by TATA in its SukindaMinesto treat effluents toxic with hexavalent chromium using harda(*Terminalia chebula*).

- As a part of corporate social responsibility (CSR): Whereas most of the industries& mines are established in forest areas, and the deforestation caused for this purpose can't simple be compensated by a calculation based on timber value because loss to the ecosystem & the socio-economic system dependent on that go much beyond the physical loss in terms of tree cutting, CSR activities should include regeneration, conservation& protection of available forest resources, and also providing support like value addition units for NTFPs, capacity building, microgrants to NTFPcollectors, etc..

As such, the Confederation of Indian Industries, ASSOCHEM, CHEMOXIL and other such organizations that can be direct stakeholders in this matter should now start focusing on fulfilling their potential role in the development of NTFP sector for a green GDP

Community partnership is mandatory for the private sector:

Whereas in Scheduled Areas the local communities (their Gram sabha or Panchayat) are the legal owners of the minor forest produce (which includes bamboo and kendu leaf, lac, tassar, gum, etc. as defined in the Forest Rights Act,2006) of their respective areas as per the Provision of PanchayatsExtension to Scheduled Areas Act(PESA),

Scope in different industries for NTFPs usage in Karnataka state:

COMMON NAME OF NTFP	SCIENTIFIC NAME	INDUSTRIAL USAGE
Honey		Medicine(Parma) & Food Industry
Aralakai	Terminalia Chebula	Medicine
Amle(Fresh)	PhyllanthusEmblica	Pickles , Medicine

the Forest Rights Act recognizes community ownership over the MFP in both scheduled and non-scheduled areas of the country where the forest rights are recognized . This also means that state or private monopoly over such produce is legally invalid, so state monopolies on bamboo and tendupatta can be challenged in the court of law. Moreover, the Biological Diversity Act provides for constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees(BMCs) atthe level of panchayat(also Panchayat Samiti and ZillaParishad) and urban municipal authorities, and these committees will supervise/regulate the access to local biological materials by all stakeholders; which means that without the approval of BMC/State Biodiversity Board no commercial procurement of NTFPs or biological materials would be legally valid. Some agencies are already following this process in Andhra Pradesh. Hence, the private/corporate sector has to enter into a partnership agreement with the local communities if it wants to ensure raw material supply from their areas. Not only for the purposes of an effective monitoring but also to have a dignified partnership the raw material procurers must remain accountable to the local communities and theirauthorized institutions, and should be prepared for social audits too. Social activists/organizations have been expressing concern over the fact that private procurement has often been exploitative and corrupt in nature, in addition to environmental degradation. They have organized the primary collectors into institutions so as to check this exploitation to a possible extent and to better bargain for their rights. However, it is also true that the NTFP sector has survived almost solely because of the private sector. Even the public sector marketing agencies ultimately depend on the private sector for the bulk sale of their produce. It is too late but still highly relevant that both the private/corporate sector and the social sector recognize each others' plus points, skills, advantages, and also the benefits of a mutual partnership; and work out a mechanism that establishes a sustainable, dignified, and remunerative partnership between the industries and the communities.

Amla(Dried)		Medicine
Gum		Book Binding, Silk Reeling, Starching
Lichen		Paint, Condiment
Tamarind	TamarindusIndica	Condiment
Dhoopa	VateriaIndica	Cooking Fat
Sheekakai	Acacia Concinna	Soap,Shampoo,Medicine
Ramapathri	MyristicaMalabarica	Paint
Almaddi	Ailanthus Malabarica	Agarbatti

SOURCE: Karnataka forest department website

Strategies for corporate and NTFP sector coordination
 Forward Integration: Karnataka forest department should take initiation and establish non timber products related industries that means since the forest is owned and controlled by the state itself; the state should establish industries sourcing raw materials from forest collected by tribal's.

Compulsory procurement of raw materials: the government should make it compulsory for the industries depending on ntfps for raw materials to procure it from tribal's collecting ntfps it has made it for FDI in retail sector.

Mou with forest department: as part of corporate social responsibility the forest department should enter mou with industries operating in forest areas to adopt the nearest tribal settlement and also the employees working in those industries should be made to use products made by tribal's using non timber sources.

Marketing co-operation (mother Henning concept): companies should promote and distribute NTFPs through their well established channel network and if possible co-brand the NTFPs.

CONCLUSION

It has observed that while on one hand the industrial sector has not contributed much towards this goal while exploiting the NTFP resources heavily, it has on the other hand been noticed that traditional forest dwellers (particularly the young and educated generation) are gradually showing disinterest in NTFP collection. This is most likely because the way the modern educational system trains the society, NTFP collection or wild collection seems to be rather a retrograde occupation, and this perception gets critical when various government-sponsored income

generation schemes appear to be more securing and remunerative than the forest collection. However, NTFP collection has in it the potential to provide a more sustainable occupation than the government schemes; and the need of the hour is to make best use of this by community corporate collaboration which ensures sustainable development and inclusive growth.

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