



Research Note

Collection, processing and marketing constraints faced by NTFPs dwelling tribes in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh

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ABSTRACT : The present paper attempts to examine constraints perceived by tribal forest dwellers in collection, processing and marketing of non timber forest products in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh. The sample of 80 respondents was selected through multistage sampling technique from district and data collected. The constraints faced by forest dwellers were varied from area to area but the common perception of these forest dwellers about constraints of collection, processing and marketing were analyzed. The analysis revealed that competition amongst collectors was the major constraints reported by 76.25 per cent respondents in collection of NTFPs, whereas main constraints faced by tribal forest dwellers in processing of NTFPs was less quantity available or collected said by 42.50 per cent respondents and in case of marketing of NTFPs majority of respondent *i.e.* 85.00 per cent was facing the constraints of improper pricing of raw produce as main constraint.

KEY WORDS : Non- timber forest products, Tribal, Forest dwellers, Constraints

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NTFPs are defined as “all biological materials, other than timber, which are extracted from forests for human use.” NTFPs include fruits and berries, nuts, spices, medicinal plants, oils, gums, resins, honey, mushrooms, weaving and dying materials, aromatics and recreation (FAO, 2005). NTFPs have become an alternative and vast source of income to forest dwellers in India. In forestry NTFPs appeared to have the potential for poverty reduction and sustainable livelihood. Trades in NTFPs generate employment opportunities, substantial income and support livelihood among rural populations in tropical regions globally. Currently about 75 per cent of poor people in the world depend on NTFPs for their subsistence

while 80 per cent of forest based people in the developing countries use NTFPs daily (Aiyeloja and Ajewole, 2006; Acharya, 2013 and Sinha, 2008). India is an agriculture driven country where 70 per cent of its population lives in rural areas; for tribals this is as high as 92 per cent (Johnson *et al.*, 2013 and Anonymous, 2011). In some states of India, NTFPs have contributed 30 to 70 per cent of the total income of households and majority of the forest dwellers depend on forests for 25 to 50 per cent of their food requirements. The states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh account for more than 75 per cent of traded NTFP and 65 per cent of the tribal population

concentrated in India (Muthyalu, 2008).

Chhattisgarh is third largest state of India in terms of forest cover which is 5.6 million hectares which is 46.39 per cent of state and 8.06 per cent of the country. Madhya Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh being at first and second in terms of forest cover (Forest Census, 2011). The Forest Department, Government of Chhattisgarh helps the rural people financially and by making SHGs for collection, procurement, processing and export of NTFPs through Chhattisgarh Minor Forest Products Marketing Federation (CGMFPPED), which is very marginal as compared to the potential. Although NTFPs can be processed into a number of value-added products, it is usually sold in the raw form by the primary collectors (Johnson *et al.*, 2013). Out of the total population of Chhattisgarh, tribals constitute about 32.5 per cent mostly live in dense forested areas in Sarguja and Bastar (Census, 2011) and are known for their unique lifestyle, rituals, traditions and superstitions. Some of the major tribes of Chhattisgarh include Gond, Baiga, Korba, Abhuj Maria, Bison Horn Maria, Muria, Halba, Bhatra and Dhurva tribes cottage industries for their livelihood. They primarily dependent on forest produce, which they gather and sell or directly consume. Most of the NTFPs are collected by the tribal and villagers residing in and around the forests. About 60 per cent of NTFPs production is consumed locally. Apart from this, a large amount of produce collected is sold in local market, mandis, mostly at cheaper rate to the middlemen who sell them at a premium to the industry.

For the present study, multi stage stratified sampling method was adopted. At the first stage, the Rajnandgaon district was purposively selected on the basis of presence of forest cover as well as rich diversity of non timber forest products and presence of tribal communities in selected area. In second stage, two blocks namely Choki and Mohla selected randomly for study. And then two villages from each block *i.e.* total four villages namely Jhiratola and Kesala from Choki block and Urawahi and Hatharel from Mohla block were also selected randomly

for study. In the last stage 20 tribal forest dwellers from each village were selected randomly for the study. Hence the total sample of 80 tribal forest dwellers was randomly selected for the study. The data were collected from selected tribal forest dwellers by personal interview method. For this purpose, a special pre-tested schedule was developed. The analysis of collected data was carried out by using mathematical and statistical tools like summation, percentages, averages, means etc. The constraints faced by the tribal forest dwellers were majorly related to transport, marketing, technical, economic and socio-cultural etc. By looking these major constraints interview schedule was prepared so that it includes most of the constraints faced by farmers. The schedule includes 5 collections, 5 processing and 5 marketing constraints and hence a total of 15 constraints were asked by every respondent and analyzed.

NTFPs support livelihood of these tribal forest dwellers living in remote and dense forest areas. Hence, looking all these situation the present paper attempts to described the collection, processing and marketing constraints faced by forest dwellers under the following heads.

Constraints faced by forest dwellers in collection of NTFPs :

The constraints faced by forest dwellers were varied from area to area but the common perception of these forest dwellers about constrains of collection were listed out in Table 1. Table 1 revealed that competition amongst collectors was the major constraints reported by 76.25 per cent respondents followed by deforestation said by 43.75 per cent respondents. Beside these, constraints like collection area far from home, Time consuming process and forest fire were 3733.75 per cent, 20.00 per cent and 12.50 per cent respondents, respectively.

Constraints faced by forest dwellers in processing of NTFPs :

The Data on commonly occurring constraints in

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Deforestation	35	43.75
2.	Forest fire	10	12.50
3.	Time consuming	16	20.00
4.	Collection area far from home	27	33.75
5.	Competition amongst collectors	61	76.25

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage
1.	No primary processing units	10	12.50
2.	Lack of knowledge about processing	13	16.25
3.	Storage problem	23	28.75
4.	Less quantity available	34	42.50
5.	Insufficient labour	26	32.50

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Improper pricing of raw produce	68	85.00
2.	More household consumption	41	51.25
3.	Unorganized market	60	75.00
4.	Market far away from home	52	65.00
5.	Poor transportation	31	38.75

processing of NTFPs in the study area were collected and analyzed and the results are presented in Table 2. It revealed that main constraints faced by tribal forest dwellers was less quantity available or collected said by 42.50 per cent respondents followed by insufficient labour said by 32.50 per cent respondents. Whereas other constraints like storage problem, Lack of knowledge about processing and No primary processing units were faced by 28.75 per cent, 16.25 per cent and 12.50 per cent respondents, respectively in the study area.

Constraints faced by forest dwellers in marketing of NTFPs :

Constraints imply the problems or difficulties faced by forest dwellers while adopting day-to-day marketing practices in their life. It was observed from Table 3 that in case of marketing of NTFPs majority of respondent *i.e.* 88.75 per cent was facing the constraints of improper pricing of raw produce. This might be because of the fact that, most of the traders or agents in the region controlling the price or non availability of government society for all forest produce purchase. Whereas 77.50 per cent respondents stated unorganized market was another constraints. 58.75 per cent respondents conveyed their constraints about market far away from home. Beside these constraints respondents also states other constraints like more household consumption and poor transportation faced by 47.50 per cent and 45.00 per cent respondents, respectively.

Conclusion:

As regard constraints faced by forest dwellers in collection of NTFP's, most of the respondents expressed Competition amongst collectors was the major constraints reported by 76.25 per cent respondents. Whereas constraints faced by forest dwellers in processing of NTFP's analysis revealed that main constraints faced by tribal forest dwellers was less quantity available or collected said by 42.50 per cent respondents. But Referring to constraints of marketing of NTFPs by forest dwellers majority of respondent *i.e.* 85.00 per cent was facing the constraints of improper pricing of raw produce as major constraint. Hence, to overcome all these constraints government should take some policy intervention measures.

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