

PROCEEDINGS OF WORKSHOP ON 'DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA & INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE NTFP MANAGEMENT'

A one day Consultative Workshop on 'Development of criteria & indicators for sustainable NTFP management' was jointly organized by AFRI and Indian Institute of forest Management, Bhopal on August 29, 2009, at AFRI, Jodhpur. The main objective of the workshop was to provide a forum for linking various agencies, institutions and stakeholders dealing with dry and arid NTFP species and their ecological systems and to share experiences and knowledge, related to the development of C & I. The meeting was presided by the chief guest Mr. A.K. Singh, PCCF, MD, CGMFP Federation, Raipur, Chattisgarh, and the distinguished guest, Dr. Ram Prasad, Chairman of steering committee and former PCCF, M.P. Dr T.S. Rathore, Director, AFRI, welcomed the delegates and gave his introductory remarks. Dr H. S. Singh, CCF & MD GSFDC, Vadodara, Gujarat, gave over view of NTFP in Gujarat. Objectives and the relevance of the workshop were highlighted by Prof. P. Bhattacharya, workshop convener & Member Secretary, IIFM, Bhopal. Dr. Ranjana Arya, Scientist E and Head, NWFP Division, AFRI, presented the vote of thanks. The representatives of AFRI, CAZRI, JNV University, National Ayurveda University, Botanical Survey of India, State forest department, Scientists from Jodhpur, progressive farmers, NGO's- Taal Chhappar Livelihood Project, Churu, Seva- Ahemdabad, Mehsana, Patan, GEER Foundation, Gujarat, Seva Mandir, Udaipur, Samarthak Samiti, Udaipur etc. actively participated in the workshop.



SESSION-I PRESENTATIONS:

In the first session presentations on dry zone NTFP's their characteristics, ecological dimensions and prioritized species, sustainable management of NTFP's, etc. were held. Four presentations were made in this session-

- Thematic presentation on C & I for sustainable NTFP Management by Prof. P. Bhattacharya, Faculty IIFM, Bhopal
- Dry Zone NTFPs their characteristics, ecological dimensions and prioritized species by Dr. Ranjana Arya, scientist-E & Head of NWFP Division
- Status of NTFP dry and arid NTFP species and their sustainable management aspects in the state of Gujarat by Dr. H.S. Singh, CCF, MD, GSFDC, Vadodra, Gujarat

- Non Timber Forest Produce in Arid Zone by Sh. N. D. Prajapati , Director, Institute of Herbal Heritage, Jodhpur

Five to ten minutes were given to the representatives of NGOs and delegates of State Forest Department to give a brief introduction about the work undertaken by their organizations for conservation, utilization and value addition of NTFPs of their region.

SESSION- II GROUP DISCUSSION

During second session group discussions were held on C & I framework for NTFP's with special emphasis for their development for dry zone on Ecological and biological aspect, Use and cultural requirement, Plan and management and Legal and ethical requirement of policy. Participants were divided into five groups as under-

Group-A : Principle-I: Ecological and Biological aspect(Ecology): The points discussed in this head are as under-

1. Resource Survey & Inventorization of NTFP in Dry Area
2. Management plan for sustained NTFP Production
3. Habitat Improvement for sensitive and endangered species
4. Conservation strategy to conserve In-situ, Ex-situ, herbarium and seed material and Population of endangered/sensitive species

Group- B : Use and Cultural Requirement (Socio) : Different criteria discussed in this head are as under-

1. Identification of species to be collected and regulated on the basis of IUCN Red-List
 - a. RET species
 - b. Other species' regulated collection
 - c. Regular detailed mapping of collection site
 - d. Collection based on market information
 - e. Formulation of committee to report on practical measurement of collected use
2. Ex-situ measures for RET
3. III- Market players
4. IV- Development of conservation and collection practices based on indigenous knowledge
5. V- Social Compliance at large

Group-C – Principle III: Plan and Management (Economics)

1. Skill up gradation at the local level by introducing non-destructive harvesting and value addition techniques.
2. Availability of storage and processing facility as per domestic and global market requirements.

3. Local availability of micro finance and micro credit at the lower interest rate.
4. Establishment of market linkages- Establishment of market development agencies to get-
 - a. Availability of authentic market information
 - b. Transparency in COC
 - c. Market development and promotional activity
 - d. Fix min. price for demand and supply??
 - e. Distribution of profit among share

Group- D- Principal IV: Legal and Ethical requirement of Policy (Institutional)

1. Recognizing traditional know-how
2. Facilitating collection, Marketing research & Disposal of the produce
3. For Bona-fide livelihood, relaxed transit rules facilitating free movement
4. Capacity building for sustainable harvesting
5. Planning for regeneration and enhanced production of NTFPs

Meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chairperson.