



LIVELIHOOD DEPENDENCY OF TRIBALS AND FACING CONSTRAINTS IN MARKETING AND UTILIZING NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS : AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS IN KORBA DISTRICT OF C.G, INDIA

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Abstract

The present study was conducted in Korba district of the Chhattisgarh State, India. Out of total five blocks in Korba district Podiuproda block were selected purposively for this study on the basis of maximum production of NTFPs. Podiuproda block consists of 212 villages. Altogether five villages were selected randomly. From each selected village, 18 tribal households were selected randomly for the collection of data. Thus, total 90 tribal households were considered as a respondent for the present study. Average size of the cultivated land holdings per hectare for large size farms was 3.43 ha. Followed by 1.68 ha for medium size farms and 0.57 ha small size of farm groups. Average size of the farm families in small, medium and large size of farm groups were 6.10, 6.50 and 5.54, respectively. Tribals were dependent on forest area for their livelihood whereas most of the households 87.78 per cent was lived in forest area followed by the 83.33 per cent income generation through NTFPs and 66.67 per cent employment generation through NTFPs, respectively. Different constraints faced by the rural household in marketing of NTFPs data's revealed that the price offered in the market is low found by (73.33%) of the respondent as a major constraint and no primary processing unit is available with 26.67 per cent is found as least constraint. While suggestions given by households to remove these constraints in collection, consumption and marketing of NTFPs most of the households 80 per cent were suggested that the cooperative society should be available in village and minimum 16.66 per cent suggested that advance money for collection of NTFPs should be provided.

Key words : Livelihood, tribals, marketing, utilization, constraints, suggestions.

Introduction

Millions of people around the world depend on forests for medicine, raw materials, fuel, income and food. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that 500 million people live in or near forests, and in some places forests are the primary source of food. But almost everywhere, forests provide regular supplements to people's diets. In many developing countries, forest foods represent a much needed safety net, helping people get by between harvest seasons, when crops fail or during times of droughts, famines or social strife. In some areas, forests support livestock production by providing fodder, and in others for example, coastal mangrove swamps they support local fisheries. Beyond these direct

contributions for food security, the environmental services provided by forests play a critical role in ensuring sustainable agricultural production. Forests and woodlands help filter and maintain water supplies, protect against soil erosion and land degradation, moderate climate and slow global warming by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Forests are also rich deposits of biological diversity and provide large number of poor people with fuel for cooking food and heating their homes, while forest-based employment gives many others a source of cash income. The forests apart from providing timber also provide biological products called non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

Forest plays an important role in the socio-economic development of a country like India. India occupies 2.5 per cent of world geographic area supporting 17 per cent

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of human population and 18 per cent livestock of the world. The recorded forest area in India is about 7.65 crores ha. and 23.02% of total land mass. However, the actual forest cover is just about 19% of the total geographical area (FAO, 2005). The per capita forest area in the country is 0.08 ha as compared to the world average of 0.64 ha. The dense forests (crown density more than 40%), open forests (crown density less than 40%) and scrub including mangrove forests (crown density less than 10%) accounted for 48, 34 and 18 percent of forest area, respectively (source-Forest Survey of India, 2011). NTFPs not only fulfill the subsistence needs of the rural population, but also contribute in generating cash-income. Many of these NTFPs have market demand, so they offer an opportunity to earn cash income especially in cash-constrained rural economies where alternative sources of cash-income generating employments are very limited. Hence, the present study was undertaken with the following objectives :

1. To study about socioeconomic profile of the rural household in the study area.
2. To find out the marketing and the dependency of rural population on non timber forest products.
3. To analysis the different constraints faced by the rural household in marketing of non timber forest products and suggest policy measures.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted in Korba district of the Chhattisgarh State, India. This district is one of the largest producers of NTFPs among all districts of Chhattisgarh. It constitutes about 40% of the total NTFPs production in Chhattisgarh. Thus, Korba district were selected purposively for the study. Out of total five blocks in Korba district namely, Katghora, Kartala, Korba, Pali, Podiuproda. Among these block Podiuproda were selected purposively for this study on the basis of maximum production of NTFPs. A complete list of all villages was obtained from Podiuproda block office, therefore the villages were arranged in ascending order, according to the collection of NTFPs. Podiuproda block consists of 212 villages. Altogether five villages were selected randomly. From each selected village, 18 tribal households were selected randomly for the collection of data. Thus, total 90 tribal households were considered as a respondent for the present study. In the marketing of non-timber forest products, the main market functionaries engaged in the selected Laghu Vanopaj Mandi, village merchant and wholesalers of non-timber forest product, three village merchant and wholesalers of NTFPs were

selected randomly for calculating marketing cost and margin. The primary data with respect to collection and marketing of NTFPs, constraints in marketing of NTFPs were collected from the sample households by personal interview method with the help of well - structured pretested schedule.

Results and Discussion

Description of the cultivated land holdings

Table 1 revealed that cultivated land holdings in different size of farm groups. Size of the farm groups in numbers for small, medium and large size farms were 40, 30 and 20 households, respectively. Altogether 90 Households were selected for study. Average size of the cultivated holdings per hectare for small size farms was 0.57 ha followed by 1.68 ha for medium size farms and 3.43 ha large size of farms group, which constituted on sample average of 1.58 ha, respectively.

Table 1 :Detail description of the cultivated land holdings in different size of farm groups.

Number of Respondent = 90
SML = 40+ 30+ 20 = 90
(Area in hectares)

S. no.	Particulars	Size of farms group			Sample average
		Small	Medium	Large	
1.	Size of Farms Group (in numbers)	40	30	20	90
2.	Average size of cultivated holdings in hectare	0.57	1.68	3.43	1.58

Dependency of tribal livelihood on NTFPs

On perusal of the data in table 2 and fig. 1 revealed that dependency of tribal population on non timber forest products by the different size of farm groups through marketing of NTFPs. Most of the NTFPs collector households 87.78 per cent expressed that they lived in forest area which provide residence for tribals followed by the 83.33 per cent income generation through NTFPs, 82.22 per cent grazing land for livestock's, 75.56 per cent tribal householders were dependent on NTFPs for their food security, 74.44 per cent getting additional resources for other allied agricultural activities and 66.67 per cent employment generation through NTFPs, respectively.

Some similar findings observed by Sadashivappa *et al.* (2006), Fuashi (2005), Prakash (2003), Chupezi *et al.* (2009), Singh and Quli (2010), Sarmah and Arunachalam (2011), they studied that the tribes from different parts in India depends up to 50 per cent on NTFP as a source of income and collection of non-wood forest products is the

Table 2 : Dependency of tribal livelihood on Non Timber Forest Products with different size of farm groups in study area.

Number of Households = 90

SML= 40+ 30+ 20 = 90

S. no.	Particulars	Size of Farms Group			Total in percentage	Rank
		Small	Medium	Large		
1.	Tribal householders are depend on NTFPs for their food security	36	21	11	68(75.56)	IV
2.	Income generation through NTFPs	38	23	14	75(83.33)	II
3.	Employment generation through NTFPs	32	18	10	60(66.67)	VI
4.	Residency in forest area	38	26	15	79(87.78)	I
5.	Getting additional resources for other allied activities	34	21	12	67(74.44)	V
6.	Grazing land for livestock's	33	25	16	74(82.22)	III

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage.

Table 3 : Constraints Faced by Tribals in collection and marketing of NTFPs in different Size of Farm Groups.

Number of Households=90

SML= 40+ 30+ 20 =90

S. no.	Particulars	Size of Farms Group			Total in percentage	Rank
		Small	Medium	Large		
1.	Deforestation	37	23	17	77(85.56)	II
2.	Lack of cooperatives in marketing societies at village level	23	25	14	62(68.89)	VII
3.	Competition among collectors	25	16	12	53(58.89)	X
4.	Improper pricing of raw produce	25	26	19	70(77.78)	V
5.	Markets are far away from farm	28	19	12	59(65.56)	IX
6.	Time consuming activities	37	24	15	76(84.44)	III
7.	Less quantity available	37	26	18	81(90.00)	I
8.	Availability of NTFPs are far away from residence	33	24	16	73(81.11)	IV
9.	Lack of transportation facilities	29	23	14	66(73.33)	VI
10.	No primary processing unit is available	27	17	16	60(66.67)	VIII

Note: Figure in the parenthesis indicates percentage.

most important livelihoods strategy of the tribes.

Constraints faced by tribals

Table 3 revealed that constraints faced by the different size of farms group in marketing of NTFPs. Most of the collectors expressed that major constraint was Less NTFPs quantity available in their place was first rank with 90 per cent followed by Deforestation (85.56%), collection of NTFPs is time consuming activity (84.44%), the availability of NTFPs are far away from residence (81.11%), improper pricing of raw products in market (77.78%), lack of transportation facility (73.33%), lack of cooperatives in marketing societies at village level (68.89%), no primary processing unit is available (66.67%), markets are very far away from farm (65.56%)

and least constraint was competition among collectors (58.89%), respectively. Similar results revealed by the Basavarajappa (2008) and Ghosal (2010) in their studies.

Different suggestions given by household to remove the constraints in collection, consumption and marketing of NTFPs

In order to remove the constraints this comes in collection, consumption and marketing of NTFPs, suggestions were offered by the NTFPs collectors. The results obtained are presented in the form of frequency and percentage in table 4. The majority (80%) of the households suggested that the cooperative society should be available in village for collection and marketing of NTFPs. About 61.67 households suggested that

Table 4 : Different suggestions given by household to remove the constraints in collection, consumption and marketing of NTFPs.

S. no.	Suggestions	Frequency*	Percentage
1.	Cooperative society should be available in village for collection and marketing of NTFPs	48	80.00
2.	Provision of transportation facilities	29	48.33
3.	Minimization of price fluctuation of NTFPs	37	61.67
4.	Primary processing unit should be available in village area	17	28.33
5.	Provide advance money for collection of NTFPs	10	16.66
6.	Implementation of strict rule against deforestation	12	20.00

Note: *Data are based on multiple responses.

minimization of price fluctuation of NTFPs. About 48.33 were suggested that provision of transportation facilities for removing the wastage of time in marketing. About 28.33 were suggested primary processing unit should be available in village area for maintaining the standard and received higher value of NTFPs. 20 per cent households suggested that implementation of strict rule against deforestation and 16.66 per cent suggested providing advance money for collection of NTFPs.

Conclusion

In light from the above findings, it can be concluded that the tribal livelihood in Korba district is mostly depends on the Non Timber Forest Products with different aspects i.e. 87.78 per cent has lived in forest areas, 83.33 per cent generated income through NTFPs, 75.56 per cent tribal householders were depends on NTFPs for their food security and 66.67 per cent employment generation through NTFPs. Tribals facing different problems in collection, consumption, marketing and utilization of NTFPs. The major problem is production of NTFPs fluctuated between years sometimes very less quantity is available in some areas, collection is time consuming activity, price fluctuation, less transport and other institutional structure facility etc. Therefore, it is need to use different suggestions which are offered by the households and provision different facilities to increasing collection, marketing and consumption of NTFPs for improving livelihood of tribes in the study area.

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