

NEED

Minor Forest Produce (MFP)/Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) are the major source of livelihoods of the tribal people. There are ‘two’ kinds of Forest Products. These are major Forest products and MFPs. The Major Forest Products are pulpwood, sandalwood, fuel and timber. MFPs are non-timber forest produce of plant origin such as bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins and many forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, honey, and lac etc.

Approximately, 100 million forest dwellers depend upon MFPs as their subsistence and cash income. According to TRIFED, tribal people derive 20-40% of their annual income from Minor Forest Produce on which they spend major portion of their time. The MFPs have a strong linkage to women’s financial empowerment as most of the Minor Forest Produces are collected and used/sold by the women. Minor Forest Produce sector has the potential to create about 10 million workdays annually in the country.

The Central government introduced a minimum support price (MSP) for a selected list of MFPs and a mechanism for marketing Minor Forest Produce and for further development of Value Chain of MFPs. These efforts are not enough to improve the living standard of the tribal people. The tribal people should become entrepreneurs to lead a dignified life. The present seminar is being organized to improve the tribal economy with the following objectives.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the seminar are:

- To understand the forest based livelihoods and the status of MFPs in tribal economy,
- To know the MSP for MFPs, value chain process, and strategies of marketing of MFPs and
- To suggests a policy to transform the tribal people as an entrepreneurs through MFPs.

COVERAGE

The seminar will cover aspects like Forest Based Livelihoods, Tribal economy, status of MFPs, MSP for MFPs, Value chain for MFPs and Tribal entrepreneurship to improve the tribal economy. Mainstreaming the tribal people in development process is the main focus of the seminar. These aspects will be discussed through following modules:

MAIN THEME

“Creation of Tribal Entrepreneurs through MFPs”

SUB -THEMES

1. Tribal people and their livelihoods
2. Forest based Livelihoods and the status of MFPs
3. MSP for MFP and Value Chain for MFPs and Government Efforts
4. Challenges of Marketing
5. Strategies for marketing of MFPs
6. Transforming Tribal people as Entrepreneurs
7. Best Practices
8. Leave No one behind: Transforming tribal economy

PARTICIPANTS

Papers are invited from academicians, subject experts, and policy practitioners of tribal/rural development, social welfare, social justice Departments, project functionaries and NGOs working for improvements of livelihoods of tribal people.

PRESCRIBED FORMAT

The papers should be submitted in ‘Times New Roman’. Font size 12, 1.5 spaced with margin 1 ½ on the left side and 1 on the other three sides which will be screened by the review committee (Max 500/3000 words) may be submitted electronically to the e-mails: snrao2001@gmail.com, snrao.nird@gov.in. Hard copy may be sent to Shri. S. N. Rao, Associate Professor (CESD), NIRDPR, Hyderabad – 500 030, Telengana on or before September 12, 2022.

OUT COME

The quality papers presented in the seminar will be published in the form of an edited book. The observations related to policies programmes will be used as inputs in the training programme

National Seminar on
Livelihoods and Creation of Tribal Entrepreneurs
through Minor Forest Produce (MFP)
 (September 26 - 28, 2022)



[MFP: Livelihoods to Millions of Forest Dwellers]

Last Date of Nomination: **September 19, 2022**

Venue: NIRDPR, Hyderabad

Call for Papers



Centre for Equity and Social Development
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
 [Ministry of the Rural Development]
 Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030.

Brief concept Note on Livelihoods an creation of Tribal Entrepreneurs through MFP

NEED

The tribals, known as forest dwellers and forests form an intricate element of the social cultural life of tribals. Forest is a home for many Indian tribes. It provides them with the basic needs like food, water, shelter etc. The tribal people depend upon the natural produce of forest for their survival, livelihood and employment. The tribal people look upon the forest as a natural environment and depend upon it. The United Nations Report on tribal development succinctly brings out the tribal economy and its relationship with forest as follows: “Tribal people in general, derive either directly or indirectly a substantial amount of their livelihood from the forests. They subsist on edible leaves and roots, honey, wild game and fish. They build their homes with timber and bamboo and practice cottage crafts with the help of local raw materials. They use herbs and medicinal plants to cure their diseases and even their religion and folk-lore are woven round the spirits of the forest. Commercial transaction is predominantly by barter, trade being left mostly to the outsiders who control the money economy”.

Tribal people have their own system of living with nature, without harming and destroying the forest. They have their own method of conservation of soil because they preserve the forests and exemplifying the age-old pattern of co-existence between man and nature. The tribal people depend upon forest as a resource for fulfilling their basic needs like collecting wild fruits, seeds, gum, flower, fire wood, fodder and water for cattle, fishing, plantation, orchards etc., as and when they may be available. These are called as minor forest produce.

Minor Forest produce is a produce other than trees and timber. Minor Forest Produce (MFP)/Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) are the major source of livelihoods of the tribal people. There are ‘two’ kinds of Forest Products i.e., Major Forest products and Minor Forest Products. Major Forest Products are pulpwood, sandalwood, fuel and timber. Minor Forest Products are non-timber forest produce of plant origin such as bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins and many forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, honey, and lac etc.

MFP-As a livelihood: Approximately, 100 million forest dwellers depend upon Minor Forest Produce as their livelihood. According to TRIFED, tribal people derive 20-40% of their annual income from Minor Forest Produce on which they spend major portion of their time. Minor Forest Produce sector has the potential to create about 10 million workdays annually in the country.

Forests form an intricate element of the social and cultural life of tribals. It is estimated that in India, about 300 million tribal and other local people depend on forests for their subsistence and livelihood. India has an estimated diversity of 3,000 plant species, from which Minor Forest Produces (MFP) is derived by the tribal people and other forest dwellers..

Majority of the tribals live in the forest areas and depend to a large extent for their livelihood and income generation on Minor Forest Produce which form a major source of subsistence and cash income for the tribal community. Minor Forest Produces have become a major portion food, fruits, medicines and other consumption items for tribals. The forest dwellers are legally empowered with the ownership and governance of the MFP through PESA (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, and the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

MFP and PESA Act – 1996

According to PESA Act -1996, Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas are endowed with powers and authority to function as institutions of self-government. Gram Sabha is endowed with—

- (i) the ownership of minor forest produce, and
- (ii) the power to manage village markets.

Forest Rights Act-2006- and MFP:

The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal people and other traditional forest dwellers, access to forest resources. Forest Rights Act – 2006, defines “minor forest produce” as “all non-timber produce of plant origin, including bamboo, brush wood, stumps, cane, tussar, cocoons, honey, wax, lac, tendu or kendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tubers, and the like”.

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, gives the “right of ownership, access to collect, use and dispose of minor forest produce which has been traditionally collected within or outside village boundaries”. The Act was enacted to protect the marginalized socio-economic class of citizens and balance the right to environment with their right to life and livelihood. However, several problems abound.

The tribal and other local people dependent on forests still remain underprivileged and are deprived of fair returns.

Factors contributing for unfair returns the produce is in perishable nature, lack of holding capacity, lack of marketing infrastructure, exploitation by middlemen, and low government intervention at the required time, the scheme, “Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP” was formulated by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as a measure of safety for MFP gatherers was implemented in 2013.

Tribals and Entrepreneurship:

Tribals do not commercialise the forest produce, and they use them for their domestic consumption. Tribals not only use the forest as a resource for fulfilling their basic needs, but they also use it as a means of livelihood. They collect nature produce such as dry and fallen wood for fuel, small timber, bamboos, nuts, berries, bones, hide, skins and herbs etc., as a source of subsistence income. As a result, the tribal entrepreneurs are very less. But the government is putting many efforts to make them as tribal entrepreneurs.

Minimum Support Price for MFP:

The Scheme for MSP for MFP and development of value chain was started by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in the FY 2013-14 with an objective of providing a fair price to MFP gatherers, to enhance their income and to ensure sustainable harvesting of MFPs. The objective of the MSP for MFP scheme is to establish a framework for ensuring fair prices for the tribal gatherers, primary processing, storage, transportation etc. while ensuring the sustainability of the resource base.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has revised minimum support prices for almost all MFP with the purpose of providing enhanced incomes to the tribal gatherers. Further, additional 47 MFP items have also been included in the list of MSP for MFP Scheme to expand the ambit and coverage of the scheme by the Ministry in 2020. Presently 87 MFPs are covered under MSP for MFP Scheme.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India had released Rs 319.65 Crores towards working capital/ revolving funds to the 18 State Procuring Agencies implementing Agencies designated by concerned State Governments for procurement of Minor Forest Produce on declared Minimum Support Price. The Ministry has also released an amount Rs. 85.61 Crores to the State Implementing Agencies for Infrastructure Development to the 15 States.

The States have initiated procurement of MFPs from the existing funds available with them under the scheme through the primary procurement agencies at the haat bazaars and through tribal gatherers.

Minor Forest Produce and Women:

MFPs have a strong linkage to women's financial empowerment as most of the Minor Forest Produces are collected and used/sold by the women. MFPs are especially important for the poorest households living in forested areas, especially women. A research study (The Livelihood School, BASIX, 2010) shows that in Chhattisgarh, the involvement of women in the MFP economy is very high. Tribal households depend on the MFP economy more than non-tribal households. The MFP economy is a critical one for the most vulnerable sections of society.

MFP-Marketing Strategies:

TRIFED spearheads implementation of the Van Dhan programme in 27 States and 307 Districts with availability of MFPs and significant forest dwelling tribal population. Collection and sale of MFPs contribute 40 – 60 % of tribal annual earnings. Value Addition helps in tripling or quadrupling their income. The program addresses problems that the tribal people face such as possession of land/house with no rights; restrictions in the collection of minor forest produce; exploitation by middlemen; displacement from national parks and wild sanctuaries, lack of development in forest villages etc.

The Van Dhan Yojana or Van Dhan Scheme, a component of 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP'. The scheme was launched on 14th April, 2018. Implemented by

TRIFED as the nodal agency at the national level, the Van Dhan start ups is a well thought plan for the socio-economic development of the tribal population of the country.

The Central government and state governments have introduced many initiatives to improve the livelihoods of tribal people and other forest dwellers. These are like providing development of value chain, mechanism for marketing and minimum support prices for Minor Forest Produce. These efforts are not enough to improve the living standard of the tribal people. The present seminar is being organized to improve the tribal economy with the following objectives.

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- Tribal people and their livelihoods
- Forest based Livelihoods and the status of MFPs
- MSP for MFP
- Value Chain for MFPs and Government Efforts
- Marketing Strategies for MFPs
- Tribal Entrepreneurship
- Best Practices
- Leave No one behind: Transforming tribal economy

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Hard copy may be sent to below mentioned address by September 19, 2022.

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