



Chapter 17 - Non-timber forest produces (NTFPs) and livelihood security of people in West Bengal

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Abstract

A vast tract of West Bengal is dominated by tribal and nontribal people in the forest and degraded land in India. They depend upon resources, mainly forest and degraded land-based vegetation, though agriculture is now fascinating among them as they are going to the main stream of civilization to cultivate land and use technology-based cultivation. It is not valid for all pockets of several forests-dominated districts as they secondarily engaged in market to develop local economy. The primary levels-based resource collectors directly or indirectly collect materials of non-timber forest produces (NTFPs) and transfer the same to the local market to earn money. Secondary buyers collect the same from markets and channelize the same to nodal place and main market. In this way, they earn money and stepwise develop economy for their livelihood since time immemorial. Lateritic forest patches of southwest Bengal and plain lands of North Bengal are two different eco-geographical territories that give us valuable information that could be used to discuss a moral platform as a model for better management and resource mobilization in near future. Hope that people will come together and strengthen the bond between NTFP species and species diversity in a managerial way to develop better economy and better management of biodiversity too.

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2021, Fuel

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...*Sterculia foetida* (SF) or Indian almond belonging to the Sterculiaceae family is a tree found in warmer regions such as India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Pakistan etc. [30]. The tree is abundantly found growing naturally in West Bengal providing livelihood as a non-timber forest product [31]. The tree has high fruit yield of 200–350 kg/per tree annually and the seeds have been used for extracting oil [30], as a natural colorant [32] as well as highly efficient bio sorbent for dyes [33]....

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