

TENTH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE

**REVISITING THE POVERTY REDUCTION AGENDA IN THE CONTEXT OF SDGs:
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY**

15-25 MAY 2017
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA



MANAGING NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION



Dr. CTS Nair



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Forest Department
Sri Lanka

LEGT PROGRAMME



Pacific Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

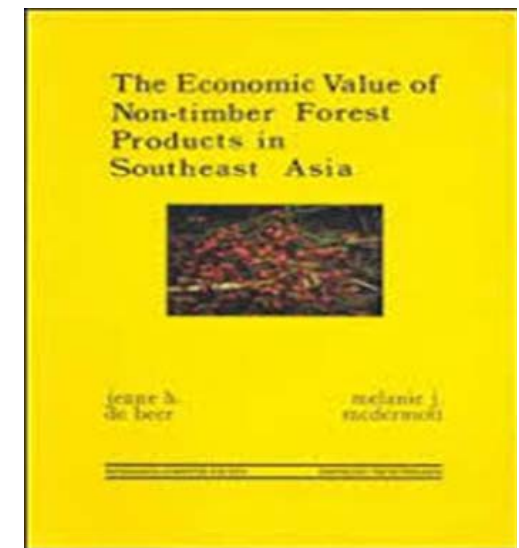
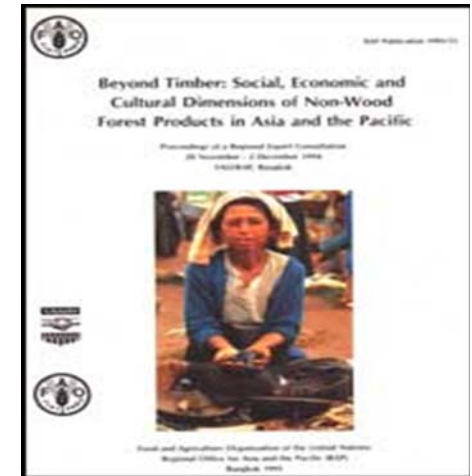


ICIMOD



BACKGROUND

- ❑ It is extremely difficult to decide what should be said about a topic that has been discussed so much.
- ❑ Almost every issue – including policy, institutional, legal, technological, economic, social and cultural – has been subjected to discussions in seminars, conferences and workshops.
- ❑ Umpteen recommendations to improve the management of NWFPs and to enhance their contribution to poverty reduction have been made.



PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION

- ❑ Provide a framework for analysis of issues pertaining to the use of non-wood forest products.
- ❑ Share the experience on NWFP development particularly focusing on its impact on poverty alleviation.
- ❑ Discuss the emerging scenarios in the production, processing and trade of non-wood forest products.
- ❑ Opportunities and challenges in enhancing the poverty reduction role of NWFP development.



QUESTIONS

- Are there any instances/ experience where NWFPs have significantly reduced poverty?
- If so how did it happen? What factors have contributed to sustained poverty reduction through the development of NWFPs?
- What are the challenges and opportunities in building success stories?
- What should be done as regards policy, legal, institutional and technical interventions?

DIFFERING USES/ CHARACTERISTICS

Category	Examples	Characteristics
Subsistence products	A wide array of products – Fruits, nuts and other food items, medicines, materials for household use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local importance • Largely based on local culture and knowledge
Products traded in local/ regional/ national markets	Bamboo and rattan, Beedi leaves, medicinal plants (especially those used in traditional medicines), edible insects, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial use – in food and non-food industries. • Natural healthcare and beauty products.
Globally traded products	Mushrooms, sandalwood oil, agar-wood oil, gums, resins, medicinal plants, bamboo and rattan products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many are high value products. • Rising income and the fad for green products is increasing the demand

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

**Natural forests
(Collection from the wild)**

Intensively managed monocultures

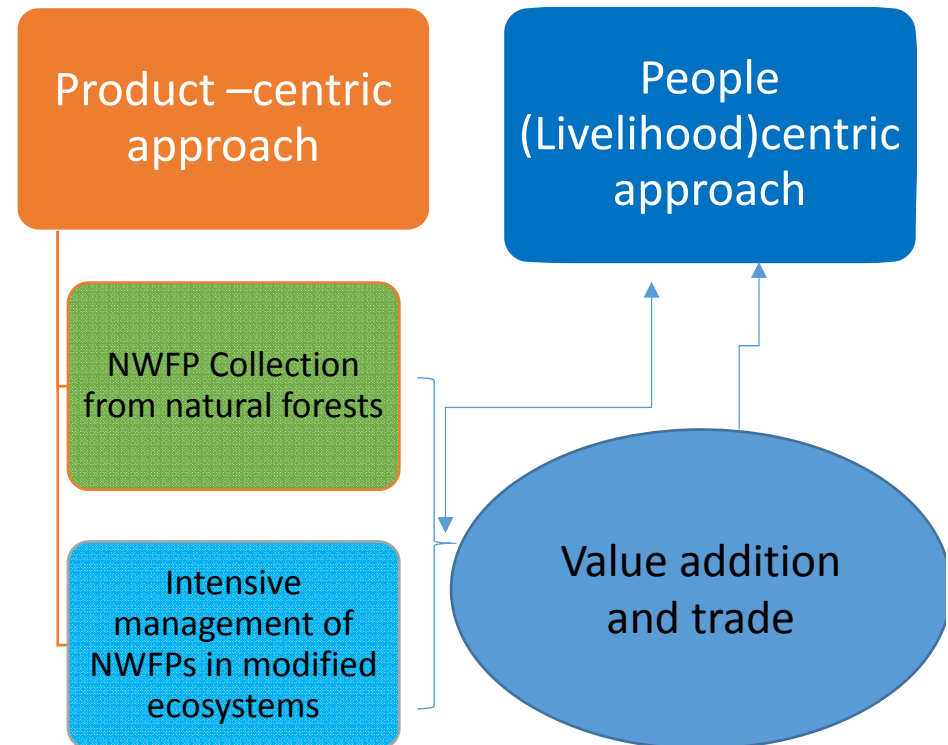
**Mixed cultivation
(Agroforestry)**

Ownership/ Control	Products/ services	Markets	System
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and food supplements (including nuts, fruits, wild vegetables, bush meat, insects, etc.) • Medicinal and aromatic plants • Industrial raw materials (gums, resins, tannin) • Handicrafts • Cultural products 	Subsistence use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal and organized
Private sector		Local markets	
Local communities		National markets	Global markets



PRODUCT-CENTRIC AND PEOPLE-CENTRIC APPROACHES

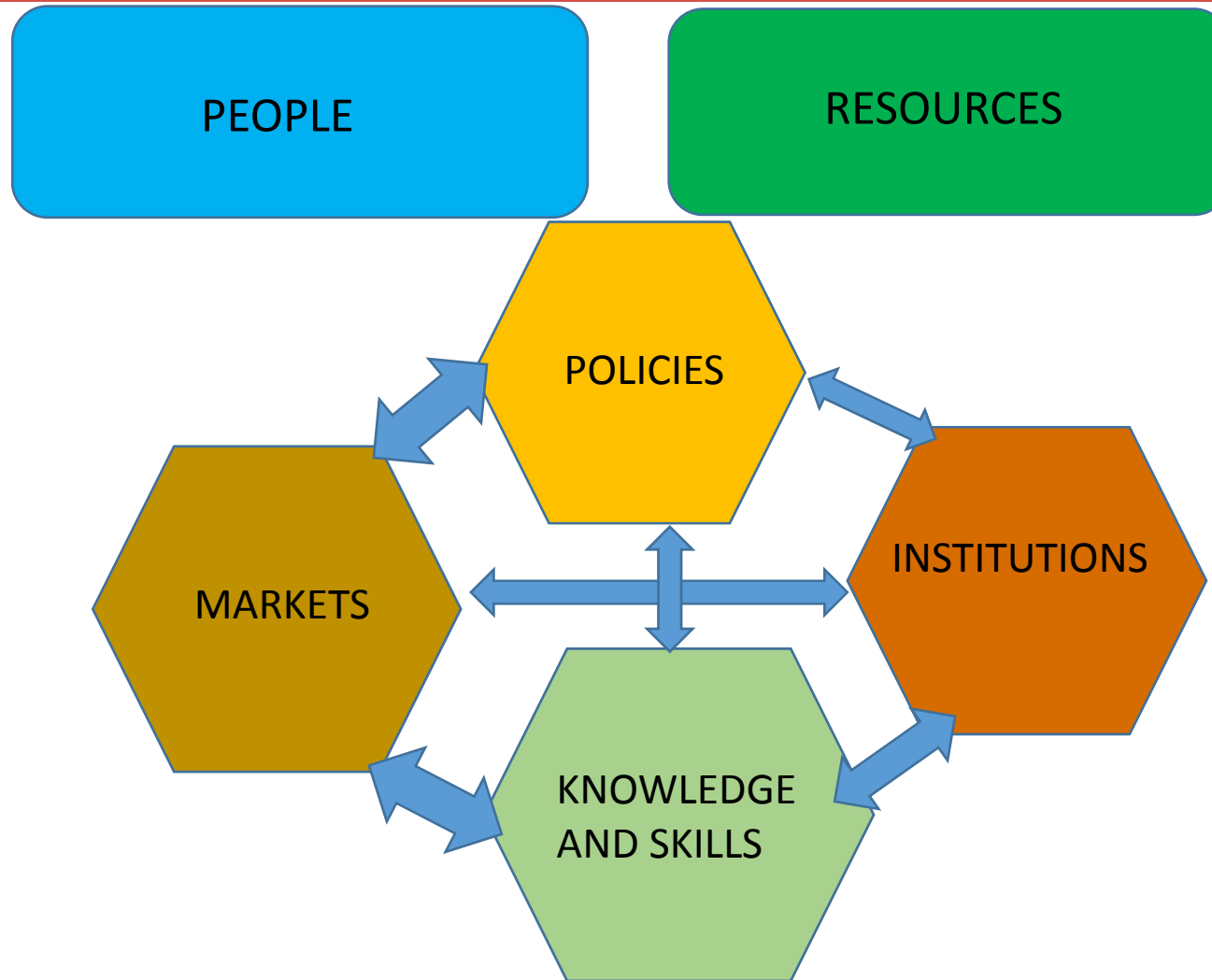
- ❑ Historically NWFP management has adopted a product approach, initially focusing on collection of products from natural forests and subsequently pursuing their production in human modified ecosystems.
- ❑ Livelihood and poverty reduction issues were considered from the perspectives of different products.
- ❑ Increasingly thrust is being given to people and livelihood centric approach.



A PEOPLE-CENTRIC APPROACH

- Adopting a “people-centric” approach will require us to focus on how different products/ product related activities fit into the livelihood of the people.
- Need to characterize the socio-economic conditions and consider non-wood forest products from the perspective of the poor.
- Each individual, household and community have their life strategies largely determined by the socio-economic conditions they confront. It is important to understand how non-wood forest products fit into this changing context.

A FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING PEOPLE, POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND NWFPs



GENERAL TRENDS

- ❑ **Subsistence collection is on the decline, while many of the important items collected from the wild are domesticated and cultivated.**
- ❑ **However problems related to unsustainable collection from the wild still persist.**
- ❑ **Supply chains have been reinvented and what were largely local have expanded to become national and global value chains.**
- ❑ **New institutions have emerged, providing a wide range of support with increasing effort to strengthen the small producers and collectors.**
- ❑ **Processing technologies have changed and several new products are put into the market. This is so in the case of health and beauty products, whose demand is increasing in the context of the burgeoning middle class”.**

LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES AND NWFPs

- ❑ The nature of people's dependence on NWFPs change over time depending on their livelihood strategies.
- ❑ Asset-poor communities are highly dependent on diverse products, especially from forests.
- ❑ This is especially so in the case of people with limited human, physical and financial capital, in particular those living in remote locations.
- ❑ Livelihood strategies change in response to the changes in the socio-economic conditions of the household as also the overall socio-economic conditions in the area.
- ❑ Opening up the local economies brings about fundamental changes, affecting livelihoods and thus the nature of use of NWFPs.

LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES AND NWFPS

Different strategies for the use of non-wood forest products:

- ❑ **Subsistence strategy:** A significant share of NWFPS goes for subsistence consumption (Typically hunter gatherer economies).
- ❑ **Diversified strategy** with high integration with market economy and low contribution from Non-wood forest products (Forest fringe communities collecting/ producing several products – a typical example being mixed home gardens).
- ❑ **Specialization strategy** with high integration with the market economy and a high contribution from one or a few products (Small holder rubber plantations).

CONTEXT VARIABLES THAT IMPACT THE STRATEGIES

- ❖ **Property rights**
- ❖ **Size and access to markets**
- ❖ **Opportunity costs of land and labour**

CHALLENGES IN DEALING WITH NWFPs

- ❑ A very diverse array of products, production systems and end uses.
- ❑ Preponderance of subsistence use and the dominance of informal system of collection – Extremely challenging to obtain even an approximate estimate of the quantity/ value of what is produced and consumed.
- ❑ Difficulty in tracking the value chain – a significant part of it is in the informal domain.
- ❑ Multiple players and stakeholders.

LIKELY TRENDS

- ❑ **Significant decline in the consumption of subsistence products, especially in the context of availability of products that are considered as superior.**
- ❑ **Reduction in subsistence consumption, especially on account of increasing wages and better employment opportunities.**
- ❑ **More systematic collection of some of the NWFPs in response to increasing demand from NWFP industries (especially health and beauty products).**
- ❑ **NWFP sector is attracting considerable investments by the pharmaceutical and beauty product industry.**

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- Diversity of products and differences in the situations make it difficult to generalise the livelihood role of NWFPs.
- Need to have a better understanding of the larger socio-economic context.
- Many products that are considered important at a given point of time are likely to fade out in the context of larger changes. On the other hand new products could become important.
- Maintaining diversity is the best bet to ensure sustainable livelihoods.
- Significant improvement in livelihood will depend on moving up the value chain and capturing a larger share of value addition.

“It is simplistic, and often wrong, to assume that because an NTFP is important to the poor, efforts to develop it will help the poor”



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



TENTH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE
**REVISITING THE POVERTY REDUCTION AGENDA IN THE CONTEXT OF SDGs:
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY**
15 – 25 May 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Thank you



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



TENTH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE
**REVISITING THE POVERTY REDUCTION AGENDA IN THE CONTEXT OF SDGs:
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY**
15 – 25 May 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka