

## WOMEN'S ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION TO NTFPs BASED LIVELIHOOD OF WESTERN SATPURA IN NANDURBAR DISTRICT

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### Abstract

Forests constitute a significant element of the natural capital of an economy. The term NTFPs refers to a broad spectrum of biomass related products, food, fiber, fodder, gums and resins, medicinal plants, structural materials and a range of other items of sustenance and economic value. The western Satpura region in Nandurbar district which is rich in natural vegetation and it has a wide range of variety of NTFPs plants. On the basis of field survey was identified 68 plants and 2 insect species that were used to fulfill varied needs of local forest dwellers. It was interesting note that forest dwellers residents sell as many as 15 species in local market to earn cash income. In fact those women's are important role and contribution of NTFPs related activities, i.e. collection, processing and marketing. NTFPs play a key role in the life and economy of the forest dwellers living in and around the forest.

**Keywords:** NTFPs, Tribal women, collection, processing and marketing.



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### Introduction:

Forests constitute a significant element of the natural capital of an economy. The term NTFPs refers to a broad spectrum of biomass related products, food, fiber, fodder, gums and resins, medicinal plants, structural materials and a range of other items of sustenance and economic value. The western Satpura region in Nandurbar district which is rich in natural vegetation having dry deciduous, humid and semi-evergreen species and it has a wide range of variety of NTFPs plants.

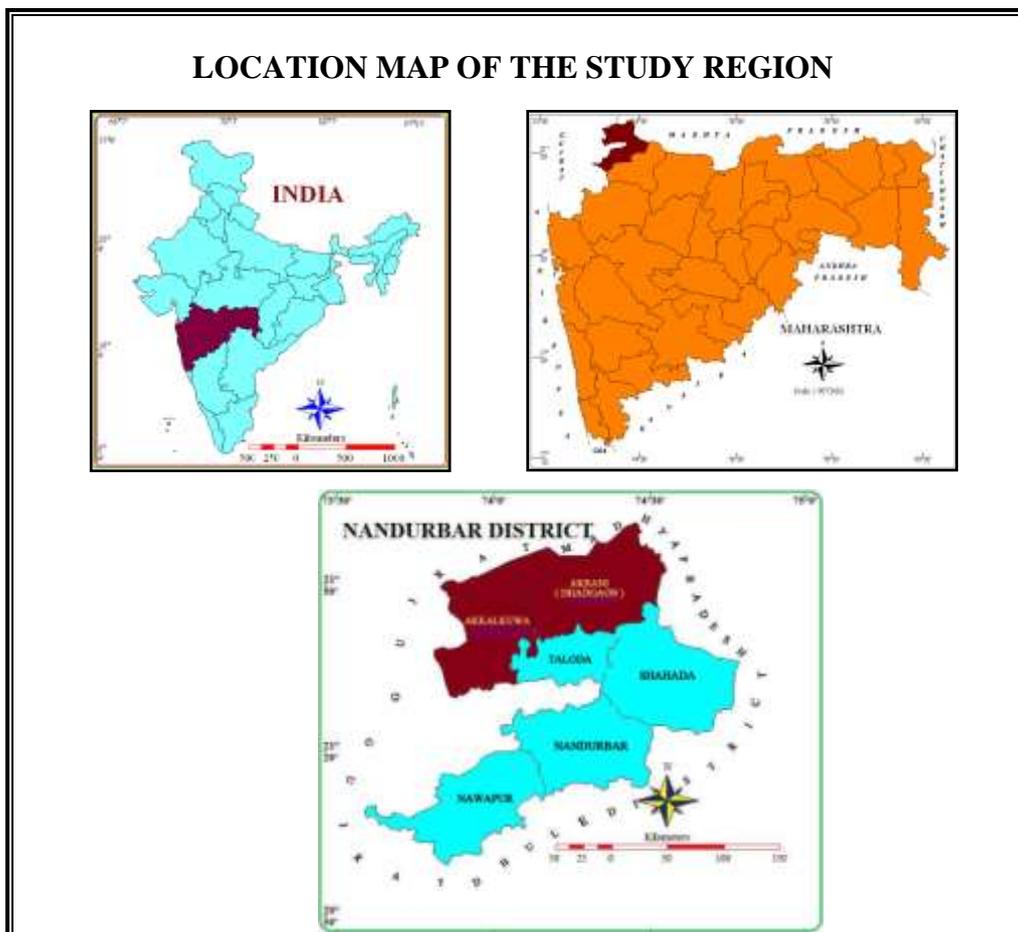
The collection of NTFPs is primarily attributed to the women of this locality. The women play pivotal role as the collectors and the processors of a wide range of NTFPs. Men are generally allotted the work of the greatest physical strength, but women are expected to continue the collection of NTFPs along with processes in an effective and skillful manner which requires a great stamina or continuity in willingness for a long span or duration.

Non-Timber forest products are more important for domestic, traditional medicinal practices and commercial. On the basis of field survey researcher has identified (recorded) 68 plants and 2 insect species that were used to fulfill varied needs of local forest dwellers. Women play the principal role in the collection, processing and sale of Non Timber Forest

Produce. The women's participatory involvement higher than the males as well as children participated in collection and processes of different NTFPs.

The family members are involved in collection of different types of NTFPs in study region, there are depends upon nature of collection. In Western Satpura in Nandurbar district, the region are mainly Amchoor production from unripe wild mangoes dominated and the main NTFPs. Making Amchoor participation involvements share was equal of males and females. The involvement of female members is higher than the male and children members for collection of NTFPs like Mahua flowers, Mahua seeds, Chironji, Jamun and Olame. The contribution of males was higher in collection of Hirada, Tendu leaves, harvesting tadi and Rosha grass. But the involvement of women in marketing of NTFPs is a rare.

**Study Area:**



The Nandurbar district extends between 21<sup>0</sup> 0' to 22<sup>0</sup>03' north latitudes and 73<sup>0</sup>33' east to 74<sup>0</sup>32' east Longitudes. The Nandurbar district lies in the North Western part of Maharashtra. The district is bounded to the South and South-east by Dhule district, to the west and north is the state of Gujrat, to the north and north-east is the state of Madhya

Pradesh. Akkalkuwa and Akrani Tahsils (Satpura) extended  $21^{\circ}30'45''$  north to  $21^{\circ}54'30''$  north latitudes and  $74^{\circ}47'15''$  east to  $74^{\circ}7'30''$  east longitude. These tahsils lies in the northern part of Nandurbar district as well as Maharashtra state and geographical area of 1374.67 Sq.km. The tahsils bounded to the north & North West by the Gujrat and North East and East by the Madhya Pradesh state, and south is the Taloda and Shahada tahsils. The most of this region is covered by Satpura mountain ranges, and between Narmada valley in the north and Tapi valley in the south. The Satpura mountain belt is maximum area spreads over parts of Akkalkuwa and Akrani Tahsils. It is about 30 km. broad and forms a wall on the northern part of the district.

### **Objectives:**

The objective of the present study is to understand and study the women's Role and contribution of Non-Timber forest products based livelihoods in study area. The main objectives of the study are:

1. To study the different types of NTFPs available in study region.
2. To study the collection, processing and marketing of NTFPs.
3. Find out the women's role and contribution of the NTFPs related activities.

### **Data Base and Methodology:**

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data is collected through questionnaires, Observations and personal discussions with villagers of dominant NTFPs collectors, the researcher have been conduct the intensive fieldwork. Out 284 villages of Satpura Mountain area in Akkalkuwa and Akrani tahsil 11 villages are selected as sample villages by random sampling method. Near about 294 households were selected as sample household engaged in NTFPs activities. It has helped us to better understand to women's role and contribution of NTFPs related activities in study region. The secondary data is collected through the unpublished record of the government and various publications such as toposheets, district census handbook of Nandurbar and Dhule district 1991, 2001, and 2011 etc. The collected data to process analyze and represent this data with the help of various cartographic techniques and MS Excel.

### **Discussion and methods:**

#### **a) Different types of NTFPs available of Satpura region in Nandurbar district:**

The Satpura region which is rich in natural vegetation having humid and semi-evergreen species. Some part of study area has many deciduous species whereas region has only dry scrub, it breaks into a low woodland or scrub, elsewhere. Field survey of the area

was conducted during 2015-2017. The NTFPs information is gathered from the various local Adivasi communities of the Satpura region of tahsil Akkalkuwa and Akrani in Nandurbar district. These NTFPs are more important for domestic, traditional medicinal practices and commercial. On the basis of field survey, the researcher has identified (recorded) 68 plants and 2 insect species that were used to fulfill varied needs of local forest dwellers. Of them 14 plant species collect their bark, 30 for leaves, 10 fruits, 5 flowers, 18 roots, and 8 tubers etc. Community perception on us of NTFPs reveals that 14 species consumed, 65 species used for medicinal purpose. It was interesting to note that the forest dwellers residents sell as many as 15 species in local market to earn cash income. All households collect NTFPs for sustenance while involved in commercial collection and processes of plant species, viz. unripe wild mango, mahua flowers and seeds, chironji, hirada, jamun, olame, and rosha grass.

**b) Gender wise Contribution of collection and processing of NTFPs:**

The women play the principal role in the collection, processing and sale of Non Timber Forest Products. From the perspective of its being an occupation predominantly practiced by women NTFPs acquire even greater significance. Development of the NTFP sector not only has a more direct impact in terms of enhancing the income of women but most often puts that income right in to their hands. An understanding of the role of women in the NTFP economy and the importance of NTFP based income for rural women is essential for undertaking a programme to allocate funds for the development of various economic activities in the rural areas. While men excel in work that requires greater physical strength, women excel in work that requires greater skill or requires greater stamina (or greater willingness to slog for very long hours). (*Bhubaneswar Vasundhara 1998, pp. 37*).

**Table No. 1 Nandurbar District: Gender Wise Contribution Of Collection And Processing Of Ntfps.**

Sr. No.	Name of NTFPs	Gender of NTFPs Collectors (Percentage)		
		Male	Female	Children
1	Amchoor	35.06	34.82	30.12
2	Mahua Flowers	37.83	44.01	18.16
3	Mahua Seeds	20.07	41.6	38.33
4	Chironji Nut	32.93	47.27	19.8
5	Hirada	42.52	30.84	26.64
6	Jamun	20.83	66.67	12.5
7	Olame	5.88	64.71	29.41
8	Tendu	45.8	38.42	15.78
9	Tadi	57.69	0.00	42.31
10	Rosha Grass	42.35	22.6	35.05
<b>Average</b>		<b>34.10</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>25.90</b>

*Source: Household questionnaire.*

Table No. 1 clearly shows that the participatory involvement of tribal household members in the collection and processing of Non-Timber forest products (NTFPs). The women's participatory involvement is higher (40.00 percent) than the males (34.10 percent) as well as children (25.90 percent) participated in collection and processes of different NTFPs.

The percentage of family members involved in collection of different types of NTFPs in study region, they are dependent on NTFPs. In Western Satpura of Nandurbar district, the region is mainly concerned with Amchoor production from unripe wild mangoes dominated and the main NTFPs. Amchoor process claims an equal participation of males and females. It directly involves with the handsome of profit for them as the dried Amchoor demand sounds for good price as compared to other NTFPs. Involvement of female members is higher than (more than 50 percent) the male and children members for collection of NTFPs like Mahua flowers, Mahua seeds, Chironji, and Jamun. Whereas the contribution of male is higher in collection of Hirada, Tendu leaves, harvesting is Rosha grass.

**Table No. 2 Nandurbar District: Gender Roles In Ntfps Collection, Processing And Marketing Of Ntfps.**

Name of NTFPs	Roles of Men Involvement	Women	Male Child	Girl Child	
Amchoor Making From unripe Wild Mango ( <i>Mangifera Indica</i> )	Climbing	√√√√	√	√√	√
	Collection	√√	√√√√	√√	√√√
	Peeling	√√	√√√√	√√	√√√
	Drying	√√√	√√	√√	√
	Selling	√√√√	√		
Mango seed (Gutli)	Decorticating	√	√√√√	√√√	√√√
	Drying	√	√√√√	√√	√√√
	Selling	√√√√	√	√	√
Mahua Flower ( <i>Madhuca Longifolia/ Madhuca Indica</i> )	Collection	√√	√√√√	√√	√√√
	Drying	√√√	√√	√√	√
	Selling	√√√√	√		
Making Mahua Wine (Liquor)	Fermentation	√√√√	√√	√	
	Liquor	√√√√	√√	√	
	Collection	√	√√√√	√√	√√√
Mahua seed	Decorticating	√	√√√√	√√	√√√
	Drying		√√√√	√√	√√√
	Selling	√√√√	√√	√	√
Mahua Oil Extraction	Grinding		√√√√		√√
	Cooking extraction		√√√√		√√
	extraction	√√	√√√√	√	√√√
Chironji Nut (Charoli)	Climbing	√√√√	√	√√	√
	Collection	√√	√√√√	√√	√√√√
<i>Buchanania Lanzasan</i>	Drying	√√	√√√√	√	√√
Hirada ( <i>Terminalia</i> )	Climbing	√√√√	√	√√√	√√
	Collection	√√	√√√√	√√√	√√√√

<i>Chebula</i> )	Drying	√√	√√√√	√√√	√√√√
	Selling	√√√√			
Jamun ( <i>Syzygium</i> Cumini)	Collection	√	√√√√	√√	√√√
	Selling	√	√√√	√√	√√√
Tendu Leaves ( <i>Diospyros</i> <i>Melanoxylon</i> )	Collection	√√√	√	√	
	Making	√	√√√√	√√	√√√
	Bundle				
	Drying	√√	√√√	√	√√
Tadi (The drink) Palm wine from Palmyra Tree ( <i>Borassus</i> )	Climbing	√√√√		√√	
	Collection	√√√√		√√	
	Selling	√√√√	√√		

**Source:** Household questionnaire.  
\*Child: Someone less than 14 years in age (approx.)      \*\* √ Degree of Involvement.

The NTFPs involves tedious long working hours and have greater participation from woman and children. NTFPs such as collection of mahua flowers, mahua seeds, jamun, olame, chironji nut and even production of Amchoor from unripe mangoes need to be collected over long hours to be profitable. A typical day for a Mahua flowers starts at around five o’ clock in the morning and ends around 11<sup>th</sup> o’ clock without breakfast. It is also found that all such NTFPs, like the collection of jamun, olame and sometimes tendu leaves, which require the walk long distance, have greater participation of woman.

NTFPs that require climbing trees usually have greater participation of men and children (Someone less than 14 years in age (approx.) like unripe mangoes, mahua seeds (Talambi), Tadi etc. were found to be collected more by men than by woman. The women have a lower participation however do not probably imply due to lack climbing skills. The most of the young girls in tribal and rural areas are aquatinted with the skills climbing the trees almost as well as boys of their age do. The lower participation probably comes from social disapproval of women climbing trees. The collection of NTFPs like talambi, mango and hirada usually involve a husband wife team with the man climbing the tree and shaking the branches to make the fruits fall while the woman gathers the same. The researcher has observed that the involvement of women in selling of NTFPs is lower than the men.

**Conclusion:**

The Non-Timber forest products are more important for domestic, traditional medicinal practices and commercial. On the basis of field survey, the researcher has identified (recorded) 68 plants and 2 insect species that were used to fulfill varied needs of local forest dwellers. The women play the principal role in collection, processing and sale of Non Timber Forest Products. The women participation is higher (40.00 percent) than the

males (34.10 percent) as well as children (25.90 percent) participated in collection and processes of different NTFPs.

The researcher has found that the participation percentages of men are the lowest in general and females' participation is the highest. The percentage of family members involved in the collection of different types of NTFPs in study region, there are dependent on collection of NTFPs. In Western Satpura in Nandurbar district, the region are mainly Amchoor production from unripe wild mangoes dominated and the main NTFPs. Making Amchoor participation involvements share was equal of males and females. The involvement of female members is higher than the male and children members for collection of NTFPs like Mahua flowers, Mahua seeds, Chironji, Jamun and Olame. The contribution of males was higher in collection of Hirada, Tendu leaves, harvesting tadi and Rosha grass. But the involvement of women in marketing of NTFPs is a rare.

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