



Environmental Research Station (ERS) & Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Sukna, Darjeeling ICFRE-Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi



Report of One Day Training Programme on ‘Non-Timber Forest Produce Collection and Value Addition’ on 28.03.2023 under VVK

A training programme on ‘Non-Timber Forest Produce Collection and Value Addition’ was organized by Environmental Research Station (ERS) and Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Sukna, Darjeeling, West Bengal (a research centre under ICFRE-Institute of Forest Productivity) on 28th March, 2023 at Udai Singh Jote, Darjeeling, West Bengal. The modules of the programme were set by Dr. Yogeshwar Mishra, Director, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi and implemented by Shri Pramod Chand Lakra, IFS, DCF, Officer-in-charge, Environmental Research Station (ERS) and Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK), Sukna, Darjeeling, West Bengal.

Rural life is closely related to the forest, traditional rural people have been fulfilling their basic daily product from needs from forest. Farmers are main contributors to add the national income and their livelihood support depends on agriculture and livestock. Apart from this rural people especially tribals are interlinked with their daily needful with forest NTFPs are defined as “all biological materials, other than timber, which are extracted from forests for human use e.” These include rattan and other materials for craft making, forest fruits, resins, gums, medicinal plants and honey. Working with communities towards an optimal use and management of NTFP resources, not only supports basic livelihoods, but also can provide a strong incentive for involvement in forest conservation. Our shared goal is to empower forest-based communities to make use of and manage forest resources in a sustainable manner. Insufficient access to and knowledge of technology to add value to the NTFPs limits the return they are able to get from NTFPs.

Market access is difficult as many of the tribal villages are quite remote and often have only footpaths to link themselves with outside world. Present marketing mechanisms for NTFPs are also insufficient, inefficient and exploitative in nature. The increasingly restricted access and degradation has reduces the ability of the forests in enduring food and livelihood security through supply of forest produce for direct consumption and income by sale of NTFPs. This has made landless and marginal tribal farmers more vulnerable to shocks. NTFPs can be processed or value added into consumer-oriented products. In order to prepare the dry powder or the extract, the fruit pods, leaves and bark of the plant need to be dried, ground into a powder, and

then made into a paste. They have commercial importance and can contribute to the economic development of a region or a nation. The effective policy interventions can improve the stake of all stakeholders involved in NTFP from collection to value addition and ultimately improve collection, value addition, income, and livelihood without sacrificing the principles of sustainable forest conservation of. NTFPs include twigs, leaves, inflorescence, flowers, fruits, medicinal plants, oils, gums, resins, honey, mushrooms, weaving and dyeing materials, aromatics, and recreation. Such useful products are also a vital source of economy, nutrition and sustenance for many forest-based communities around the globe.

In the training programme, the welcome address was given by Sh. Raju Sharma, Sr. Technician. A lecture was given by an external resource person Sh. Anil Rajak, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal on 'Methods of Collection of NTFPs'. Sh. Pramod Chand Lakra, IFS, DCF also delivered a talk in the training programme on 'Value addition of NTFPs'. Sh. Shankha Subhra Das, Project Assistant also discussed with the participants on 'Cultivation of NTFP'. It was actively supported by the all the staffs and officers of ERS & VVK, Sukna, Darjeeling namely, Sh. Raju Sharma, Sr. Technician, Sh. Bishnu Lamgade, MTS, Sh. Chandan Roy, PA, Sh. Shankha Subhra Das, FA, Sh. Abhinash Biswakarma, FA. The programme was attended by 43 participants. 100 plants were also distributed at the end of the training programme. We had received a good response from the farmers and were enthusiastic about the learnings. Feedback was also taken from all the participants. The farmers were really thoughtful and interacted with the resource persons about the NTFP. The training programme ended with a vote of thanks.

Under this training programme the topics covered were.

- ✓ Methods of Collection of different NTFPs
- ✓ Value addition of NTFPs
- ✓ Cultivation of NTFPs

The farmers were benefitted from different Resource Persons who provided training to the farmers.

- **Sh. Anil Rajak**, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal delivered his lecture on 'Methods of Collection of different NTFPs'
- **Sh. Pramod Chand Lakra**, IFS, DCF, Officer-in-charge, Environmental Research Station and Van Vigyan Kendra, Sukna, Darjeeling delivered lecture on 'Value addition of NTFPs'
- **Sh. Shankha Shubhra Das**, Project Assistant discussed on 'Cultivation of NTFPs'.

Glimpses of Training Programme at Udai Singh Jote, Dagapur, Darjeeling, West Bengal



