



AMPLIFYING VOICES OF THE UNREACHED

**MAY
2020**



A RAPID ASSESSMENT ON

**Impact of COVID-19
on people engaged in
NTFP COLLECTION**

igsss

| | |
|---|----|
| Acknowledgement..... | 2 |
| Introduction..... | 3 |
| About the Study..... | 3 |
| NTFP and Lockdown..... | 5 |
| Ongoing Government Schemes Pertaining to NTFP Collectors..... | 7 |
| Demographic Profile of Respondents..... | 7 |
| Sources of Family's Livelihood..... | 8 |
| Percentage of family income from NTFP..... | 9 |
| State wise NTFP collected:..... | 9 |
| Annual Income from NTFP..... | 10 |
| Awareness about COVID-19 Pandemic..... | 11 |
| Challenges to Livelihood due to the Pandemic and Lockdown..... | 11 |
| Impact on Collection..... | 12 |
| Impact on Market..... | 12 |
| Impact on Income..... | 13 |
| Loss of Income in NTFP..... | 14 |
| Responses from Forest Department on COVID-19 Pandemic Awareness..... | 15 |
| Knowledge on Minimum Support Prices (NTFP)..... | 15 |
| Knowledge of Primary Procurement Centers, Van Dhan Vikash Kendra (VDVK) and MSP..... | 15 |
| Availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Social distancing measures during sale of NTFP..... | 18 |
| Challenges in Accessing Basic Support and Services..... | 18 |
| Dry ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS)..... | 20 |
| Mid-Day Meal (MDM) and ICDS facilities..... | 21 |
| Access to sanitation essentials..... | 21 |
| Access to Health Services..... | 22 |
| Role of the Panchayat in the Pandemic..... | 22 |
| | 23 |
| Summary of Issue and Challenges..... | 23 |
| Gaps in schemes and guidelines..... | 23 |
| AMPLIFYING THE VOICES: What Community Wants?..... | 25 |
| Recommendations..... | 26 |



Acknowledgement

This report has been possible due to the joint effort of many. First and foremost, the tribal communities whose lives have been so devastatingly impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic, specifically of those 38 respondents who have willingly opened up about their lives and distress in Churachandrapur, Manipur, South West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, Koraput, Nabarangpur and Kalahandi in Odisha, Kanker and Gariaband in Chhattisgarh, Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh, Khunti, Palamu, Giridih and Ramgarh in Jharkhand, Dang in Gujarat and Wayanad in Kerala.

Thanks are also due to IGSSS's Partners who have been the conduit between us and the community to learn about their situation and share it back to us. We would like to special mention the contribution of our partners - Abhivyakti Foundation, Torpa Rural Development Society for Women, Vikas Sahiyog Kendra, Lok Astha Sewa Sansthan, DISHA Samaj Sevi Sanstha, Integrated Development Society, Socio Economic Development Program, RPCNEI, FDEWS, and Vikalp

Thanks to my colleagues Amar Gouda, Basab Bhattacharjee, Bedadyuti Jha, Niraj Kumar, Rishi Mishra, Hariya Damor, Kaplianlal Thangluai, Basant Panigrahi, Rajesh Misra and Asha Kiran for their support. The document would not have been completed without the support of committed field team members who diligently note down the information shared by communities

In Solidarity

Sukanya Chatterjee

Indo-Global Social Service Society

May, 2020



Introduction

The sudden cessation of movement because of nationwide lockdown has had far reaching impacts, from the very apparent such as loss of income and livelihoods to complex, hidden and unknown impacts, which are emerging and will continue to emerge for a long time to come. The vast NTFP (Non Timber Forest Produce) sector in India, though very unregulated and unstructured, brings in vital cash for economically vulnerable communities who for most part are primary gatherers at the bottom of the complex, dynamic NTFP value chains throughout the country. These are often critical supplements to the meager means of these forest dwelling or forest dependent communities.

As a social development organization, it is extremely important to not only be aware of the immediate impact on people engaged in NTFP Collection, but also make assumptions on the long term impact through data and facts.

The study is an effort of IGSSS to amplify the voices of people engaged in NTFP collection to catalyze collaboration among different stakeholders including policy makers, experts, suppliers, and consumers to find best solutions to reduce livelihood crisis. The present crisis faced by people engaged in NTFP collection can be addressed through collaboration across stakeholders along with involvement of communities to face the future uncertainties.

During data collection many interesting issues, challenges and suggestions are captured from the communities to understand the ground realities. The study also explored options for future sustainability of people engaged in NTFP collection by seeking suggestions from within the community. We are excited to present some of the innovative strategies to improve resilience of people engaged in NTFP collection.

This document will be useful for the development practitioners and policy makers related to people engaged in NTFP collection to develop sustainable approaches in tailoring support plan.

About the Study

Through this rapid research we have tried to reach out to a small representative sample

of 38 respondents in 8 states, for whom, NTFP is a vital source of earning. To understand the impact of the national lockdown on these forest dwelling or forest dependent communities, IGSSS conducted this rapid study with the following objectives:

- To analyse the impact of COVID-19 lockdown on selected communities.
- To analyze the access and effectiveness of government relief packages.
- To suggest possible strategies and recommendations for future.

| States | Districts |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Manipur | Churachandrapur |
| Meghalaya | South West Khasi Hills |
| Odisha | Kalahandi, Koraput, Nabrangpur |
| Jharkhand | Khunti, Giridih, Palamu, Ramgarh |
| Chhattisgarh | Gariyaband, Kanker |
| Madhya Pradesh | Jhabua |
| Gujarat | Dang |
| Kerala | Wayanad |



The survey was conducted by IGSSS's staff as well as by Project partners through telephonic interviews using questionnaires. Please note that,

- Information collected are qualitative in nature, however equal efforts was given to those questions where there are possibilities of quantifying them into numbers or percentages.
- Information is collected through proper dialogue with the individuals and hypothesis or generalizations are to be avoided.
- Data collection was done only telephonically between the months of April – May 2020.
- The desk review was carried out in parallel to the primary data collection process to complement the primary information.
- Reviewed the existing Government schemes and relief packages.

During the study, few challenges were faced by the research team of communicating with the respondents and generating responses amidst the personal difficulties and mental trauma they were going through. Nevertheless, effort has been to put things straight and as witnessed and communicated by the community.



NTFP and Lockdown

The lockdown phase coincided with the peak NTFP Collection (February to May) period. In this period forest-dependent communities across the country collect NTFPs /MFPs and sell in the local market to meet their basic needs. These five months activities cater their need up to the rainy season and particularly create employment opportunities in the lean period. The revenue realize from the sale of MFPs also enable them to invest in the agriculture work in rainy season.

| NTFP | Botanical Name | Harvesting period | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
| Amla | Embelica Officinalis | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Atundi Lai | Combretum Decandron | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Bel | Aegelmarmelos | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Atundi Fruit | Combretum Decandron | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Kamala Gundi Fruit | Melltusphilippenensi | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Kendu leaf | Diospyros Melanoxylon | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Tamarind | Tamarindusindica | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Mahua flower | Madhu Indica | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Mahua seeds | Madhu Indica | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Char seeds | Buchananianialanzan | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Karanj | Pongamiapinnata | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Neem | <i>Azadiractaindica</i> | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Siali leaves& seed | Bauhinia Vahili | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Sal leaves & Seeds | Shorearobusta | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Thorn Broom | Astidasetacea | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Bamboo | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Mango cornel | Mangiferaindica | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Bhuin neem / Kalmegh | Andrographis paniculata | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Kusum seeds | Schleicheraoleosa | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Honey | Bee spp. | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Arrowroot | Curcuma augustifolia | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Palas flower | Butea Monosperma | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Satabari | Asparagus Racemosus | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

Central and State Government Initiative During Lockdown for Collection and Sale of NTFP

The collection and sale of hundreds of forest produce were severely affected. After a lot of persuasion by the civil society groups, the central government announced the exemption of procurement and sale of minor forest produces during the lockdown phase on 17th April 2020 and issued subsequent advisories to mitigate the spread of Corona during collection, processing and sale of NTFP/ MFP.

A brief update of MSP of MFP - 26th May 2020

On dated 26th May 2020 Ministry of Tribal Affairs has announced inclusion of 23 additional Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items in Minimum Support Price (MSP) list. They include Van Tulsi seeds, Van Jeera, Mushroom, Black Rice and Johar Rice among others. The decision will support enhancing the coverage from 50 to 73 items comes in view of the COVID-19 pandemic so that much needed support could be provided to the tribal MFP gatherers. The ministry said, 14 of the newly added items, otherwise agricultural produces, are not commercially grown in the North Eastern part of India but are found to grow in the wild in forests. Hence, the Ministry has favourably considered including these specific items as MFP items for the North-East. Out of 23 produces 8 are for throughout the country and 15 are for North East States.

Shri Arjun Munda, the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs also wrote letter to 15 major tribal states to expedite the procurement of minor forest products under the MSP for MFP Schemes through Van Dhan Kendra.

On May 12, 2020, in a video conference with chief ministers and ministers of Tribal Affairs of different states, Shri Munda emphasized "MFP is a major source of employment for the tribals, and because of difficult situation facing the country's economy on account of the outbreak of

corona virus pandemic, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has affected the upward revision of the support price of most of the commercially traded produce." He further added, that "the aim of the state governments should be to maximize the procurement of MFP and draw up plans for their value addition. He also highlighted the need to develop a market chain to take rural products to national and international markets."

During the lockdown period, central and state governments came out with different guidelines and schemes for the procurement of NTFP.

The Central government also revised the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 49 MFPS looking to the prevailing price of MFPS in the current market

As an extension to this, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra government also issued guidelines to execute MFP activities in their states.

Most of the States except Chhattisgarh are yet to procure MFPS from forest dependent communities. Major economic MFPS like Char Seed and Sal Seed must be procured by the State Procurement Agencies under the revised MSP in order to save the tribals from distress sale as no traders are willing to offer MSP.



Ongoing Government Schemes Pertaining to NTFP Collectors

Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and development of Value chain for MFP

This centrally sponsored scheme was approved in 2013 for providing Minimum Support Price (MSP) to forest dwellers for Mminor Fforest Pproduce (MFP). This was intended to ensure a basic minimum income for MFP gatherers in the medium and short term while a competitive market development would be a long term. At present 50 MFPs are included under the Scheme. The scheme applies to only non-nationalised MFPs in each state, effectively leaving out bamboo and tendu.

Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram through Van Dhan Kendras:

Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram is an initiative targeting livelihood generation for tribal population by harnessing the wealth of forest i.e. Van Dhan. Key features includes but is not limited to i) Establishment of tribal community owned Minor Forest Produces (MFP)MFP centric multipurpose Van Dhan Kendras, which will provide skill up gradation, capacity building training, set up primary processing & value addition facility ii) Kendra's to act as common facility centrecenter for procurement cum value addition to locally available Minor Forest Produces(MFP's)MFPs.



Demographic Profile of Respondents

| | Male | Female | Age Range | Family Members |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| Odisha | 6 | 2 | 42-55 yrs. | 3-7 |
| Jharkhand | 4 | 4 | 19-62 yrs. | 3-11 |
| Chhattisgarh | 2 | 2 | 30-65 yrs. | 3-14 |
| Kerala | 2 | 0 | 38-48 yrs. | 8-16 |
| Gujarat | 2 | 2 | 47-60 yrs. | 4-7 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 4 | 0 | 35-48 yrs. | 8-10 |
| Manipur | 1 | 3 | 29-52 yrs. | 6-13 |
| Meghalaya | 3 | 1 | 39-65 yrs. | 4-7 |
| Total | 24 | 14 | | |

Sources of Family's Livelihood

The sources of livelihood reported by the respondents were NTFP (100%), Agriculture (70%), Daily wage labour (41%) and agri wage labour (30%), MGNREGS (18%). Animal husbandry, fishing and private job were reported by >/= 1)

Agriculture, agri-wage and Daily wage labour, NTFP collection are the main stays.

| States | Sources of Livelihood |
|----------------|--|
| Odisha | NTFP collection and sale, Agriculture, Agri-Wage Labour, Daily Wage Labour, , Animal Husbandry |
| Jharkhand | NTFP collection and sale, Agriculture, Private Job, Agri-Wage Labour, Daily Wage Labour |
| Chhattisgarh | NTFP collection and sale, Agriculture, Daily Wage Labour, Animal Husbandry |
| Kerala | NTFP collection and sale, Agri-Wage Labour, Daily Wage Labour |
| Gujarat | NTFP collection and sale , Agriculture, and Daily Wage Labour |
| Madhya Pradesh | NTFP collection and sale, Agriculture, Daily Wage Labour, MGNREGA |
| Manipur | NTFP collection and sale, fishing |
| Meghalaya | NTFP collection and sale; Agriculture, MGNREGA, |



Percentage of family income from NTFP

Respondents in Gujarat, Manipur, Kerala reported 25% of family income from NTFP, while nearly half of family income in Chhattisgarh (48%), Jharkhand (45%), Odisha (44%); Meghalaya is the only state which reported a very high average of 75% of their income depends on NTFP collection.

| State | Percentage of family income from NTFP |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Gujarat | 20-30% |
| Madhya Pradesh | 30-55% |
| Manipur | 20%-30% |
| Meghalaya | 70-80%, |
| Odisha | 38%-50%, |
| Chhattisgarh | 25%-70% |
| Kerala | 25% |
| Jharkhand | 10-70% (average 45%) |

State wise NTFP collected

| States | NTFP |
|----------------|--|
| Odisha | Kendu leaf, Mahua flower, Mahua seeds, Char, Sal seeds, Sal leaves, Siali leaves |
| Jharkhand | Kusum, Kendu, Piyar, Bel, Guava, Mango, Kendu Leaf, Mahua, Sal stick, Sal leaves, Bel, Jamun, , Bamboo, , LAC, Futkal (Fruits) |
| Chhattisgarh | Charota, Tamarid, Chironji, Kendu leaf, Mahua flower, Mahula seeds, Char, Sal seeds, Sal leaves, Siali leaves |
| Kerala | Honey, Wild Arrowroot, Tamarind |
| Gujarat | Mahua and Timru leaves |
| Madhya Pradesh | Mahua seeds and fruit, Datiyo, Bili, Phipher, Kikora (fruits), Gijawu (vegetable) |
| Manipur | Leaves, Bamboo shoots, Wild Mushrooms, Fruits, Leafy vegetables, like linguih, tengkol, roots, Banana buds\flowers |
| Meghalaya | Broom |



Annual Income from NTFP

| States | Annual Income from NTFP | Remarks |
|----------------|--|---|
| Gujarat | 2000- 15000 INR/Year | All respondents engaged in Mahua Collection from March to April |
| Madhya Pradesh | 5600-8000 INR/Year | 5600 INR/year for Mahua flowers, 8000 INR/year for Mahua Seeds from March to April |
| Manipur | 9000-30,000/ Year | Daily Profit ranges between 300-1000 INR depending on the products |
| Meghalaya | 50,000-60,000/ Year | 2 Respondents who make charcoal from burning wood mentioned they earn 50000-60000 INR annually. |
| | 12,000-30,000/ Year | 2 Respondents collecting Brooms said they earn 12000-30000 INR annually. |
| Odisha | 45,000- 60,000/Year & 700-18000/Year | In Kalahandi area the the income from NTFP ranges between Rs. 450000/- to Rs. 60000/- per year. But in areas like Nabrangpur, Koraput the income ranges between Rs. 700/- to Rs. 18000/- per year |
| Jharkhand | 6000-60,000 INR/Year | Mostly seasonal NTFP collections like Kendu Leaves and Mahua |
| Chhattisgarh | 9000- 35000 INR/ year | Mostly seasonal NTFP collections like Kendu Leaves and Mahua |
| Kerala | 12000 -50,000 INR/ year | Honey, Wild Arrowroot, Tamarind |

Awareness about COVID-19 Pandemic

All 38 respondents across 8 locations were aware of COVID-19. The responses reveal that there was a fairly clear awareness among them on the pandemic and its nature and basic preventive measures.

Highly contagious disease, spreads from human to human contact, were some of the common responses and Corona and *Mahamari* (Pandemic) being the common terms used.

Washing hands, wearing masks, and frequent hand washing were cited as basic prevention strategies and staying at home for social distancing.

Only one respondent, from Panki village in Palamu who said she was not very aware of COVID but that she learnt from the community and grass roots health workers that one should stay at home.

Common sources of information were the Panchayat, AWC, ANM, community news, school teachers, Village Development Committees, and NGOs.

"It is a contagious disease; there is no treatment for Corona. Social distancing and hand wash are the only means for protection and prevention of spread of COVID-19".

This is called a pandemic. One has to see a doctor in case suffering from cough and cold or fever".
"Everything will be locked down and we have to stay at home only and practice social distancing".

Challenges to Livelihood due to the Pandemic and Lockdown

Major challenges reported by the respondents are:

- Difficulty in collection and gathering of products due to the restriction on movement.
- Unavailability of market to sell products
- Unavailability of storage facilities to store previously collected products
- The reduced rate offered by local sellers, and distress sales.
- Massive income loss due to the impact of lockdown on NTFP sales.
- The loss of income from other sources of livelihood such as MNREGA, agriculture, daily wage labour etc.

"Members of our Farmer's Producers Groups are drastically affected due to lockdown. Now we all are locked in our house, and the forest produces are getting spoiled inside the forest. Nobody collected Mahua flower, as the NTFP procurement centers managed by the Government department and merchants were closed. We cannot sell the products like Mahua flower and Mahua seeds in the local market because of the legal reasons. . We don't have any storage facility in our village and hence we may have to resort to distress selling. "
lower, Tejia Damor, Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh.



There is a wide variety of NTFP available especially between February to May which are gathered and sold in the village, at the local haat, in places at procurement centres and at time vendors or middle men at their door step. These NTFP grew in the adjoining forest and the community would go and pick these up which supplemented their income and was a source of instant cash.

Impact on Collection

The restriction on movements impacted the collection of NTFP in the peak season. In many homes, collections had only started when the lockdown was announced. Majority of the respondents said that the NTFP remained in the trees and plants where they dried up or fell to the ground.

Decisions to collect were also based on other factors such as lack of storage facilities. Lack of storage facilities affects the quality of harvested NTFP and quite possibly be sold off at distress prices after lifting of the lockdown.

"The buyers of Timru have not come, so I cannot bring Timru from the forest, Samadben Dhanjibhai Gangoda, Waghaj, Dang District, Gujarat.

"I used to collect and sell Tamarind, Mahua flower, Mahua seed, Kendu leaf, Char seeds, Brooms and other forest products in the local market; but this year no buyer has turned up in our area. Whom should I sell all this to now"? Sadini Majhi, Terchepala,

Babu from Irulam Village, Wayanad shares that "the society under SC/ST development department the main vendor over there is open for sale. But due to the lockdown, local people are not buying honey. And so the society is not functional in current situation".

"There is no access of outside of home so not able to collect Sal leaf for plate making", Talo marandi, Govindpur, Giridih

"Among the other NTFPs, Mahua is very important. But due to Lockdown, there was a problem in collection. One has to stay in the house. Most of the trees are in the forest and there is no option to collect Mahua", says Suki Bai, Potiya Village, Gariaband, Chhattisgarh

"Since I have no cemented drying yard facilities 200 kg Tamarind and 150 kg char seeds could not keep it quality", said Subhakeshi Manjhira, Karlamunda, Kalahandi.

Impact on Market

The sale of NTFP has been affected by COVID-19 Pandemic and ensuing lockdown. With the lockdown, there was an instant loss of market. There were no buyers. Going to market to sell the produce was not possible or severely restricted. Vendors periodically come to village to buy Mahua, Karanja seeds, Brooms, Tamarind and other NTFP. This was not possible due to the lockdown. Since markets were closed and venders were not coming to village

If an occasional buyer was to be found, either they would buy only a few items or buy at a very low price. Sarita Devi, Panki, Palamu says middlemen came to the village for buying mahua but offered very low rates. When asked why, he said it is very difficult to roam in the village under the lockdown situation. Market for NTFP product such as Siali leaf



plates were impacted by the lockdown when shops and hotels were closed due to the lockdown.

Impact on Income

NTFP was one of the important sources of income of these marginalized households. With the income from NTFP reducing or stopping, it strained the slender means of these households. It was a source of instant cash.

This lack of cash has quite possibly increased the indebtedness among these families.

The lockdown impacted almost all sources of income. Big farmers stopped hiring wage labourers. MGNREGS work came to a halt. Along with this, the NTFP sale was affected.

Wage labour and NTFP are the only source of livelihood for majority of the marginal rural households. In the last 1.5 months, both were completely stopped shared 30 year old Dashrath Kumar Amethi Village, Gariyaband, Chhattisgarh He said that this threatened the very existence of his family. Dry ration provided by the Chhattisgarh government meant only rice. For cooking oil, potato and pulses, he had to depend on his neighbors. MGNREGA work had recently opened up at the time of the survey in Mid May 2020.

The loss of income from other sources of livelihood such as MNREGA, agriculture, daily wage labour etc combined made day to day life extremely difficult.

Nidhi Manahira from Batikupa village, Karlamunda, Kalahandi calculates that he lost out on Rs. 3000-4000/- from sale of thorn brooms during March and April due to lockdown. Sale of siali leaf plates to hotels and shops were affected, a loss in income of another Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 3000/-.

"I use to pay debt to money lenders, as I borrowed money for my daughter's marriage last year. I couldn't pay him, the interest amount is growing. The price of essential items have risen which I cannot afford" shares Arsiliyani Dang, Sarbo Badka Toli Village, Khunti, Jharkhand

"There was pulse crop loss due to erratic rains in February last week and mid-week of March. Then big farmers stopped hiring wage labourer so that avenue of income also closed. MGNREGA worked stopped completely. And I was not able to go to collect NTFP," says Subhakeshi Manahira of Batikupa village, Karlamunda.

"Lockdown has seriously disturbed all our plans and all the activities, feeding the animals, selling the livestock and collecting the Non-timber products. This is the season of marriages ceremony. Best time to sell livestock (meat, milk) and at good price. This time, however, hardly any livestock were sold", rues 50 year old Magnobai Gaode, Gaodekhasgaon, Kanker;

In Nabarangpur, the transportation of mahua packets now costed more. As told by Sarita Devi, "the buyer was offering low rates".

Loss of Income in NTFP

There has been an average income loss of Rs. 15369/-, which is 54.59% of the total income from NTFP.

Ratramani Manjhi of Karalmunda, Kalahandi says she has lost Rs. 35000/- from NTFP sale, 6000/- in daily labor wages, Rs. 4000/- in pulse crop loss, which accounts for about 43% of her annual income.

The cumulative effect of the lockdown has impacted the lives of these vulnerable primary gathers in multiple, interlinked ways. It has created an unprecedented situation.

| State | Loss of Income in Percentile |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Gujarat | 5-40% |
| Madhya Pradesh | 60% |
| Manipur | 70%-90% |
| Meghalaya | 50% |
| Odisha | 30%-45% |
| Jharkhand | 40%-70% |
| Chhattisgarh | 40%-60% |
| Kerala | 25% |

Sadini Majhi, Terchepala, Kalahandi shares, "I have calculated my losses due to the lockdown as 50% Mahua, 80% in Kendu leaf, 80% in brooms 80% in selling of leaves. This accounts for around 30% of annual income". Gopalan from Wayanad communicated that the entire 25% of NTFP contribution to his family income has been lost.

"We are stuck at home with nowhere to go, with all options closed. Due to lockdown we cannot go out and collect NTFP for sale, there is no wage labor work. It is really hard to survive", says Ramesh Dugga, Parli Village, Kanker Chhattisgarh, a refrain heard again and again in the words of all the respondents across the 8 states.



Responses from Forest Department on COVID-19 Pandemic Awareness

Except Kerala, all respondents were not aware of any response or guidelines from the Forest Department for COVID-19. In Kerala, both respondents received awareness on Kyasanur forest disease (monkey fever).

Knowledge on Minimum Support Prices (NTFP)

Only 5 of the 38 respondents know about the Minimum Support Prices for NTFP. These were from Kalahandi and Nabarangpur in Odisha. But due to lockdown it was not possible for them to go to the specified procurement centers and sell their products at MSP. Neither were the procurement centres open.

Knowledge of Primary Procurement Centers, Van Dhan Vikash Kendra (VDVK) and MSP

Majority of the respondents said that they have not heard about the Primary Procurement Center/ Van Dhan Vikash Kendra.

Among those who have heard about the procurement centres, mentioned that they are located at a distance and not accessible even in normal times. Only 1 respondent in Gariaband, Chhattisgarh has heard of the Primary Procurement Centre. Since, it is located 300 km away from his village in in Korba District, he prefers to sell his products locally to *Bicholiyas* (Middlemen). One respondent in Dang, Gujarat said the procurement centre is 30 kms from his village. One respondent in Jhabua shared that the nearest procurement centre was in Indore 190 km away. The respondent from Karalamunda in Kalahandi shared that the procurement centre was 15 kms away. They sold their collection to mobile vendors or at the nearby weekly market



We are the 3rd generation of Bhunjiyas here in Gariaband. Now we are trying to connect to the outer world and Government schemes and entitlements. As we live near the forests, we also depend on NTFP collection, consumption and sell. But during this COVID19 Pandemic, we can't sell the NTFP products in the market, neither the middlemen are providing us good rate. The Chhattisgarh Government should think about us, for schemes which are specially designed for us"

*, Aitram Bhunjiya,
Galkipani Village,
Gariaband, Chhattisgarh*

Only 3 of the 38 respondent had access to procurement centres. One was a Kendu leaf Procurement Centre known as *Phadis* in Nabarangpur, Odisha. Both respondents in Irulam, Wayanad of Kerala mentioned Society under SC/ST development department is functional.

Almost all respondents sell their collection in local markets and to traders. The lockdown had affected the primary procurement centers which were closed and hence even those with access to the centres had to sell it directly to whatever local buyers that were coming to the villages or at the local haat. These opportunities were very low infact, practically nil.

*“I have not heard about Van Dhan Vikash Kendra. But in the local haat, people from block used to come before lockdown to buy NTFP products. Private people/ bicholiyas are buying at a higher rate than the government rate, there is no problem in this”,
Dashrath, Kamar, Gariyaband.*

Majority of the respondents said that local agents come to the village to buy produce. But currently, this was impacted by the lockdown. A few who came were not giving the rate.

The middle men, agents, bicholiyas, traders or people from block would come periodically to buy produce. But there was a wide variety in the responses. Some would buy a wide range of produce others only one or a few. Some buyers would come to the villages regularly and others irregular in their visits. 14 respondents, all 4 from Dang in Gujarat, 2 in Jhabua, MP, 4 in Manipur and 1 in Meghalaya 3 in Kalahandi said that due to the lockdown no buyers were coming to the villages.

3 respondents from Ramgarh, Jharkhand, 1 in Palamu said a few buyers came but didn't offer proper rates.

Only 13 of the 38 respondents knew the rates offered by the buyers of the various NTFP products and only 5 knew about the MSP.

| Sl. No | Non Timber Forest Product | Price offered by local traders | | MSP (Rs) |
|--------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| | | Before Lockdown (Rs) | After Lockdown (Rs) | |
| 1 | Tamarind (with seed) | 50/- | 40/- | 36/- |
| 2 | Tamarind (without seed) | 80/- | 60/- | 63/- |
| 3 | Karanaj Seed | 20/- | 15/- | 22/- |
| 4 | Sal Seed (harvesting was going on) | -- | -- | 20/- |
| 5 | Mahua Flower (dried) | 25/- to 50/- | 15/- to 30/- | 30/- |
| 6 | Mahua seeds (dried) | 20/- | 20/- | 29/- |
| 7 | Chironji seed | 80/- | 60/- | 126/- |
| 8 | Neem seed | 20/- | 15/- | 27/- |
| 9 | Badhun | 25/- | 15/- | -- |
| 10 | Siali Leaves (100 leaf plate) | 60/- | 30/- | -- |
| 11 | Sal Leaves (100 leaf plate) | 40/- | 20/- | -- |
| 12 | Kendu Leaves/Tendu Leaves (20 leaf) | 1/- | 1/- | 1/- |
| 13 | Charota Seeds | 7/- | -- | 10/- |
| 14 | Broom | 30/- | -- | 30/- |
| 15 | Wild Mushroom | 150/ - | -- | -- |
| 16 | Jyrmi | 150/ - | -- | -- |
| 17 | Snieh May (local name of Medicinal Herb) / kg | 150/ - | -- | -- |
| 18 | jatung (local name of medicinal herbs) / Kg | 150/ - | -- | -- |
| 19 | Bamboo Shoots /kg | 130/- | -- | -- |



Availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Social distancing measures during sale of NTFP

Most respondents were unaware of whether Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) like soap, water and sanitizer were available in the procurement centers, or whether physical distancing is maintained during selling of MFP/NTFP as there were no Primary Procurement Centers/ Van Dhan Vikash Kendra nearby. The NTFP collection and sale had been halted by the lockdown. The very rare buyer who came into the village would buy directly from the door step.

Challenges in Accessing Basic Support and Services

The lockdown affected the access to market for basic supplies of grocery, essentials in the villages.

- Insufficient and dwindling food reserves at home
- Problems in accessing basic grocery items due to lockdown
- Very few retail shops in locality which are either closed or have limited stock or out of stock.
- Shops opened for limited period of time
- Larger markets are inaccessible due to lockdown
- Hoarding, black marketing, rise in grocery prices, supply affected
- Limited items as well as quantity in PDS rations; limited to staples; vegetables, oil, spices etc people are dependent on market which are difficult to access or closed.
- Difficulty in accessing medicine; available at a distance
- Medicine shops in the locality are closed or required medicines are not available
- Doctors not available

"Yes. I am unable to provide basic needs like proper food, other groceries, vegetables because I don't have money to purchase them. We have hand pump facility here so we are able to use safe drinking water and medical shops are open in nearby areas for emergency", Talo Marandi, Govindpur village, Giridih, Jharkhand

State wise, challenges in accessing basic needs

Chhattisgarh:

Government is only providing rice in ration. For vegetables, people need to go to the markets which either do not have much stocks or are closed.

Jharkhand:

There are problems in accessing the basic grocery items due to the lockdown situation. Respondents haven't stored the general items due to the sudden announcement of lockdown. In the villages there are only 1 or 2 grocery shop which are running out of stock and those which are available are very high on price. Local administration is also

very strict, thus movement to the towns with larger markets is severely restricted. Lack of access to water, or in some cases, sources of water are far away from home, which is playing hindrance towards washing hands in regular intervals

Odisha:

Dry rations have been provided through PDS but closure of markets and restrictions on movements has made it difficult to access vegetables and groceries.

We have to carry water both for domestic use and also for drinking purpose from a tube well located at 500m away. It is difficult for us to carry water from such distance, so we fetch water one time in a day and we use it judiciously. We can't afford to use much water in hand washing only"

TaloMarandi, Govindpur Village, Gandey, Giridih, Jharkhand



Kerala:

In Kerala, the experience has been different in access to basic items and supports the local administration. The grocery shops were open and provided all the required items on time.

Gujarat:

It was difficult to procure items of daily use as availability had reduced. With the unavailability of transportation facilities it has become difficult for them to procure goods for daily use. Lock down resulted in loss of job and incomes which increased financial hardships as the small savings reduced rapidly.

Madhya Pradesh:

Financial hardship had initially increased due to the loss of income and the difficulty in getting necessary items but it has lessened with the government providing resources, even though it is not adequate, it is better than before. The Panchayat has worked to ensure the guidelines of social distancing etc. are being adhered to, and ensuring getting food and other supplies from ICDS and MDM as well as the PDS. But they are getting only rice and wheat and it is not sufficient. Other items such as pulse and oil should also be supplied according to the people.

Manipur:

The unavailability of essential products have caused a price hike in the market, making it difficult for many to buy them. And along with this, with restrictions on transportation, there has been difficulty in restocking the shops and local shops are running out of stock for essential items. The Panchayat has not done any satisfactory work during this time. The people in Manipur also did not have access to any PHC nearby.

Meghalaya:

All respondents said that the government is taking steps to ensure supply of food and nutrition items as well as other essentials. And the frequency is good, so they are not facing

a lot of difficulty. The people were happy with the Panchayat's work. They are getting food and other essentials from MDM and ICDS. And also had access to PHC nearby.

Dry ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS)

All 38 respondents mentioned that they were receiving dry ration from PDS. The items and quantity varied widely from location to location, often within the same state

| State | District | Item | Adequate Yes / No (Respondents) |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jharkhand (8) | Ramgarh, Khunti, Giridih, Palamu | Rice | No (8) |
| Chhattisgarh (4) | Gariaband | Rice, Salt | No (4) |
| | Kanker | Rice, Sugar, Chana, salt | No (4) |
| Odisha (8) | Kalahandi | Rice, Arhar, | No (4) |
| | Korapur | Rice, | No (4) |
| | Nabarangpur | Rice, dal | No (4) |
| Gujarat (4) | Dang | Rice, wheat, sugar, salt, dal | Yes (4) |
| Madhya Pradesh (4) | Jhabua | Rice, wheat | Yes (2) No (2) |
| | | | |
| Manipur (4) | Churachandrapur | Rice | No (4) |
| Meghalaya (4) | South West Khasi Hills | Rice | No (4) |
| Kerala (2) | Wayanad | Rice | Yes (2) |

Since then, the systems might have improved and more variety of rations might have become available through both PDS as well as COVID relief services. However the point to note is that from midnight of 24th till Mid-May when the survey was conducted, nearly two months had passed since the first lockdown was imposed. Majority respondents said that they had to supplement the rations from market or retail shops which itself was arduous due to multiple reasons as a result of the lockdown. Supply chains were disrupted with limited or no stocks available at retail shops, hoarding, price hikes, and dwindling savings and food reserves made life extremely tenuous for these marginal households.

“The grain support is not sufficient; we need a minimum of 6 kg millet, 6 kg mixed dal, 1 litre oil, mixed spices for our family of 4 in one month”, Sanjini Majhi, Kalamunda, Kalahandi, Odisha.

Mid-Day Meal (MDM) and ICDS facilities

Barring 4 respondents in Churachandpur, Manipur and 1 respondent in Dang, Gujarat who replied in negative, all other respondents said that MDM and ICDS were supplying dry food rations to the door steps.

In Jharkhand, 7 of the 8 respondent said that the ICDS and MDM were providing dry rations to eligible families such as rice, pulses, pil, sugar, potatoes and at the doorsteps by the Sahiya (ICDS) and Teacher (MDM). However at times, the door step service was not available, as cited by 1 respondent in Khunti. Other times there were issues of supply. In Kanker, Chhattisgarh SHG and teachers were distributing MDM food packets at home. The ICDS workers too were delivering food to homes. In Kalahandi, Odisha students received rice, eggs, rice and nutri-mix from the AWC. In Koraput, Odisha and Wayanad Kerala, MDM was distributed at home by AWW and teacher. In Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, MDM and ICDS were distributed through the village committees.

28 respondents felt that the social distancing was maintained by the ICDS and MDM workers. Only 1 respondent in Kanker, Chhattisgarh felt that social distancing was not being strictly followed universally.

Access to sanitation essentials

“We have access to water, but soaps got over after regular uses and now we are unable to buy because of shortage of money”, says Talo Marandi, Giridih, Jharkhand.

All respondent said they have access to sanitation essentials. Access points were local shops, received from AWC (in MP), from NGO support (Palamu), Jharkhand.

Soap was the most common item mentioned in the response. Only one respondent from Nabarangpur specified soap and water. Only in Wayanad, Kerala both respondents clearly mentioned not having any access to disinfectants (Sanitizers). Access did not mean sustained supply as was evident in many of the responses.

In Palamu, Jharkhand the respondent mentioned that earlier they didn't have access to sanitation items but have received sanitization kits part of the NGO (Vikas Sahyog Kendra's) COVID relief response supported by IGSSS.

The two respondents from Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh said that they received Lifebuoy from AWW, also cited that they had drinking water problems. The inference can easily be drawn here that if drinking water was hard to come by, difficult to imagine that the villagers would

“Yes we have access, but it is not in our habit to use soaps in regular intervals”, Suki Bai, Gariaband, Chhattisgarh. These responses also hint at usage not accorded a high priority or not in practice.



waste precious water on hand wash.

Only 4 respondents, 2 from Kalahandi, Odisha and 2 from Jhabua. Madhya Pradesh confirmed that they were using I have purchased soap and surf personally and received 2 mask from Village Development Committees; These VDCs are a result of grass root interventions, in this instance, IGSSS itself. These stress very highly on the crucial role of Village Institutions not only for envisioning and leading village development but also for being the first responders in crisis. These roles become even more critical when the weak extension services do not reach remote locations.

The respondents were clearly aware of the COVID-19 contagion and could articulate the safety measures. However, for most part, a combination of poor and limited access to sanitation items as well as water has obviously impacted their use.

Access to Health Services

In Meghalaya & Gujarat, Wayanad in Kerala, Gariaband in Chhattisgarh, Khunti, Jharkhand all 12 respondents said they had PHCs in their villages and were functioning and even in the lockdown.

PHC in the village or nearby are often either not functional or mostly closed as reported by 8 respondents in Gola, Ramgarh and Churachandrapur in Manipur; can treat only minor ailments in Khunti; Is staffed by ANMs only and no doctors are available as reported by 6 respondents in Jhabua and Kanker.

The respondents in Ramgarh, Palamu, Giridih and Khuti in Jharkhand prefer to go to block Hospital 6 – 14 kms away. However this was not an option in the lockdown. In Kalahandi, Nabarangpur and Koraput, a functioning PHC was at a distance of 4 – 8 kms away and not accessible in the lockdown.

So for majority 26 respondents did not have access to PHC.

Role of the Panchayat in the Pandemic

25 respondents, from Ramgarh (4), Giridih (1), Khunti (2), Gariaband (1), Kanker (2), Kalahandi (1), Koraput (2), Nabarangpur (2), Wayanad (2), Churachandrapur (4) and South West Khasi Hills (4) said they were satisfied by the Panchayat's performance in the COVID 19 Lockdown.

The most cited examples was for organising dry rations or cooked food for the most vulnerable card less households followed by awareness campaigns on COVID19 preventions such as handwashing and social distancing and ensuring the lockdown is in place in the villages to prevent spread of COVID 19.

9 respondents (3 Kalahandi, 1 Palamu, 1 Gariaband and 4 in Jhabua) were dissatisfied with the Panchayat's performance. Mostly they felt the Panchayat was not doing anything. One respondent in Jhabua felt that the Panchayat was only enforcing lockdown which wasn't enough. In Palamu the respondent said the Panchayat's were not providing enough awareness, not linking to food and social security schemes in Palamu. In Kalahandi, 3 respondents felt that the Gram Panchayat and PRI representative's performance was not satisfactory as they had not pressurized local police for allowing NTFP procurement and sale in local markets.



Summary of Issue and Challenges

Lockdown for the prevention COVID 19 in our country has coincided with the peak collection period of NTFPs. The activities in the villages had to cease; the villagers could not venture outside to collect Mahua flowers, Tamarind, Tendu Leaves and other forest

Returning Migrant Labors

The responses across location were in negative. Neither was there any migrant returned to the specific villages.

This could possibly be because at the time of the survey, the migrants were yet to return.

The only exception was in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh where three respondent mentioned there were migrants who came back from out of state. The village institution unanimously decided to put them in TMCs where they were quarantined for 14 days and allowed to return home only after the isolation period and swab test was over.

They did not mention if anyone in their families have come back. One respondent said there has been no reverse migration in his village Hatyadali.

produces that had started accumulating below the trees. Even when they managed to collect some of the NTFP, they were not able to sell these due to the breakdown of supply chain and closure of haat/ weekly market. Even the State Procurement Agencies turned down leaving the tribals in penury.

NTFP collection, processing, and marketing has been stalled as that involved gathering of people either at the processing center or at the buyers' place, and the social distancing was to adhere. But, more than this aspect of social distancing, it was panic and the urgency for COVID 19 that pushed the priorities of NTFP collection and processing to back foot. Processing or value addition

of the NTFPs has stopped altogether.

Lockdown has collapsed the NTFP market linkages. After hearing the news of the possible lockdown, the traders have stopped coming to the villages and the local market places or even trading the NTFPs in the forest areas.

At present, there is no arrangement of procuring the NTFPs directly from the primary collectors; they are not collecting the NTFPs even if they can do it. In the context of COVID-19, there is a threat of distressed sale of the NTFPS to the middlemen.

If the lockdown like situation continues for longer or the present restrictions continues longer, than the forest dwellers will lose a significant chunk of their earning from the forests and that certainly will be a big blow to their livelihood. Cumulatively with other loses, it will set them back by years.

Gaps in schemes and guidelines

It is very evident that there has been quite a gap between the policy and practice. Majority of the respondents, across locations either do not know much about the Primary Procurement centres / Van Dhan Vikas Kendras nor the MSP. These two were envisaged as support to the primary gathers in the short and medium term to earn income while

the development of NTFP market would be a longer term outcome. However, despite 10 years since, there is not much of a development. A quick look at the situation reveals:

- There are regulations and restrictions imposed by the government, like the issue of transport permits, licenses, registration, etc.
- The Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) would not help as so far there are only about 1,000 of these and most are not fully functional. Similarly, the primary procurement agencies (PPAs) proposed earlier by TRIFED for facilitating the implementation of MSP schemes have not been constituted in the states or are not functional.
- Despite the declaration of central government for MSP of MFP / NTFP, due to operational shortcoming at the state level, the primary collectors are not getting the benefit and PPAs and PMVDKs are so not function effectively.
- Technical know-how regarding processing, storage, about the market and its functioning, role in the value chain, government policies, rules and regulations, and value addition are the significant issues at the primary collector's level
- Lack of proper storage facility allows for the low quality of the product, which in turn amounts to meager returns.
- Most of the NTFPs move out of the villages in raw form and villagers has little to no involvement in value addition, such as drying, grading, packaging or proper weighing
- Staffing of the forest department and TDCC is insufficient, especially at the lower level, to effectively monitor the situation on the ground.
- Personal hygienic kits are not available in most of the NTFP procurement centres
- The lockdown relaxation is for the people living in these (tribal) areas, not for the traders and contractors. For the traders to come and operate (collect and purchase the MFPs), they need to bring vehicles like trucks etc. with them to transport the (forest) produce. That is why there is a lot of confusion and it has hampered the season this year.



“We are losing out on valuable time for selling Mahua. This is a very important time for us to earn something, and help my family and during this COVID19 Pandemic’ lack of hard cash is really hurting our livelihood. Middlemen are coming to us and buying Mahua at a very low price of Rs.10/- to Rs.15/- per kg”, Lakho Devi, Saram Village, Gola, Ramgarh, Jharkhand

AMPLIFYING THE VOICES: What Community Wants?

The respondents were asked top 3 priorities for the government to focus on. The responses varied from location to location, but had commonalities. Based on the number of reference made, the priorities have been ranked below in descending order:

1. **Non Timber Forest Product (NTFP):** The highest priority as per the number of responses given was on NTFP, its marketing, price, procurement centers, MSP, extension of plucking season and processing centres etc.

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate opening up of the local markets • Required good platform for selling NTFP like mahua flowers • Allow sale in local market (without restrictions) • NTFP price should be readjusted upwards to make up for the loss due to lockdown. • Special facilities to farmers, NTFP gatherers and NTFP traders for collection and marketing of their produces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mandi for NTFP for better prices. ▪ Priority for opening NTFP procurement centers in villages. ▪ An extension plucking and selling of KL for at least 30 days ▪ Setting of dry yard and storage house in every village ▪ Establishment of local NTFP processing units in every Gram Panchayat ▪ Marketing facilities for forest product |
|---|--|

2. **Income Security** through opportunities for employment as well as access to entitlements was accorded 2nd priority

| <u>Employment</u> | <u>Entitlements</u> |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local jobs for small farmers, wage labor and migrant labor • Immediate employment opportunity especially for women • Alternative employment opportunity in absence of sal plate making • Employment at village level, with immediate payment • MGNREGA work should start in our village | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> link to pensions PWD and old age Shelter like Pradhanmantri-Awash-Yojona Immediate Cash support to purchase raw materials (seeds, agriculture equipment, irrigation facilities etc) Free seed and agri-inputs for farming Cash support to restart business and repayment of loan taken during lockdown |

3. **Priorities related to the COVID-19** where broadly on a) need for personal protective equipment, sanitization kits, COVID testing kits, dissemination of awareness on COVID-19 and b) Prevention through better quarantine facilities.

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing face mask by health department and awareness should be given by Medical department • Availability of personal sanitization kit for procurement centers. • Need more protection from KFD – Kerala • ASHA workers need to improve educating community on COVID 19 - Kerala | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Easily availability of COVID-19 testing kits and awareness about the virus ▪ Functional Health Centres ▪ Stopping arrival of outsiders into village ▪ Proper quarantine and check up system to all the migrant labor at village level. |
|---|---|

4. **Food security through better ration provided by PDS**

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Quality of Rations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rations should include lentils, cooking oil, vegetables etc with rice.</i> • Ensure adequate food security at household level – • Ensure of sufficient basic items for all the families • Other ingredients like Lentils, Cooking oil, etc. should be distributed along with the rice | <p>Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WHS close to forest for livestock ▪ Control on deforestation and plantation of more useful plants ▪ Schemes for Bhunjia PVTG |
|--|---|

Recommendations

The Pandemic and ensuing Lockdown with their own dynamics has brought extreme distress the full extent of which will be understood only in the long run. The situation is still very dynamic and uncertain globally. Most of the measures are reactionary.

In order for the Forest dependent communities to overcome their losses and earn a dignified living from NTFP, the implementation of the earlier provisions will not suffice.

What is required is a fresh look at a) Immediate support b) Longer term recovery

Immediate recommendations

- Transportation facilities with no restriction for NTFP traders to come to village and weekly marketing for trading of NTFP
- Extension of Kendu Leaf collection and marketing period as per the decision of Grams Sabha

- Printing and circulation of implementation of the Minimum Support Price Scheme and their mechanism in every villages (through print media, electronic media and walling etc)
- Proper functioning of PPAs (Primary Producer Agencies) and VDVVs (Van Dhan Vikash Kendras) formed under MSP of MFP mechanism by state governments.
- Sensitisation of NTFP gatherers on maintaining hygiene in NTFP collection work. They must sanitize their hands before and after collection work
- Mask, soaps and hand sanitizers must be placed at the entrance of all NTFP primary processing centres, including Van Dhan Vikas Kendras. Every processor must sanitize her hands before entering the centre and starting to work
- Special Gram Sabha should be mandatory in every Gram Panchayat of the country for price fixation, sustainable harvesting, collective marketing, value addition and regeneration of NTFP species
- Collaborative effort of various departments for providing marketing support to primary gatherers (Forest Department, Panchayati Raj Department, Tribal Welfare Department, Revenue Department)
- Establishment of NTFP store house in every Gram Panchayat under MGNREGA or other schemes
- Construction of NTFP harvesting platform at every village under MGNREGA and other schemes
- Interest free institutional financial support to SHGs for trading
- Financial and technical support to SHGs and village level institutions for collective marketing and establishment of cluster level NTFP processing unit
- Issue notification and guidelines for mandatory use of leaf plate and leaf cup in all hotel industries
- Review of performance of mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and development of Value Chain of MFP

Long term recommendations

- Every state government should develop village wise NTFP collection, procurement and regeneration plan
- NTFP losses/ damage should be incorporated into the central and state relief code under drought category
- NTFP based livelihood should be incorporated into Right to Food and Right to Employment category
- Every district should mandatorily 27nergizi GO, NGO & Corporate meeting for marketing of NTFPs and establishment of cluster level (based on NTFP production)value addition unit in every district
- Regeneration and Plantation of NTFP related species

Abbreviations

| | | |
|--|--------|--|
| | IGSSS | Indo-Global Social Service Society |
| | NTFP | Non Timber Forest Produce |
| | MFP | Minor Forest Produce |
| | MSP | Minimum Support Price |
| | MDM | Mid Day Meal |
| | PDS | Public Distribution System |
| | ICDS | Integrated Child Development Services |
| | VDVKs | Van Dhan Vikas Kendras |
| | PPA | Public Procurement Agencies |
| | TRIFED | Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India |
| | AWC | Anganwadi Centre |
| | AWW | Anganwadi Worker |
| | PHC | Public Health Centres |
| | PMVDKs | Pradhan Mantri VAN DHAN Kendra |
| | TDCC | Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation |

ABOUT IGSSS

Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) is a non-profit 29energizing29n working with the mandate for a humane social order based on truth, justice, freedom and equity. Established in 1960, IGSSS works for development, capacity building and enlightenment of the vulnerable communities across the country for their effective participation in development.

With its presence in 25 states and one Union Territory of India, IGSSS has set its thematic focus on promoting sustainable livelihood, 29Energizing the youth as change makers, protecting lives, livelihood and assets from the impact of hazards, advocating for the rights of CityMakers (Homeless Residents) and developing cadre of leaders from the community and civil society organisations. Gender and Youth are underlining theme across all its interventions.

You can find us at:

IGSSS, 28 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi
011 – 45705000; +919717939519; +919334058691

Know us more at:

www.igsss.org

Follow us:



