

E7: The ecology and socio-economics of Non-timber Forest Produce

Instructor: R. Siddappa Setty (siddappa@atree.org)

Credits: 2 credits (32 contact hours)

Duration of the course: 5th August – 14th November 2014

Time and Days: 12:00 – 12:50 PM on Tuesdays and Fridays

Field work and exposure visits: November 17 to 24, 2014

Course Description:

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) play an important role in maintaining biodiversity and species richness across biodiversity hotspots of tropical forests. A significant number of species are being harvested for fruits, leaves, flowers, barks etc. Understanding safe harvest techniques and monitoring would contribute to the livelihood and conservation of biodiversity.

The course will focus on the ecological, social and economic aspects of NTFPs collection across Western Ghats and Eastern Himalayas. Course will give an idea of how NTFP studies would contribute and strengthen the biodiversity conservation in the context of forest landscape.

The course will consist of following three components: 1) History of NTFPs 2) Livelihood and conservation linkage with NTFPs. 3) Current status of NTFP and policy implications

Theory (1.5 credit = 24 hours)

1. History, concepts and definitions – 2 hour
2. Perspectives, values of NTFPs for livelihood and poverty alleviation – 3 hours
3. Cultural importance – 1 hour
4. Non timber forest products extraction, utilization and valuation -3 hours
5. Impacts of harvest, monitoring and management - 3 hours
6. Status and impacts related to weeds, fire etc – 3 hour
7. Traditional knowledge and contribution with reference to NTFP – 1 hour
8. Value addition and marketing – 2 hours
9. Tenure and partnerships – 2 hour
10. Policies and governance related to NTFPs – 2 hour
11. Current and future prospects – 2 hours

Field exercise, exposure visits and assignment (0.5 credits) – 5 days - 5 hours

(November 17th to 24th 2014)

Field work

1. Different methods of resource assessment on few important NTFPs of Western Ghats – estimation of their production, extraction and regeneration levels (demonstration through transects and plots) – 1 days
2. Methods of sustainable harvest and impact studies – 1 days
3. Household survey to understand the economic contributions – 1 days
4. Discussion with community on social, cultural values, economic importance and traditional knowledge on monitoring NTFPs – 1 days
5. Participatory Resource Monitoring of NTFPs – 1 days

Exposure visits (2 days; 2 hours):

1. Visit to one centralized processing unit could be either Himalaya Drug Company or Central food technological research institute (CFTRI), Mysore and visit to centralized market. 1 day
2. Visit to decentralize processing units (VGKK honey processing unit, Keystone and SHG) and LAMPS (Large scale Adivasi Multipurpose society). 1 day

Assignments (1day, 1 hour)

Review on NTFP research in Western Ghats and preparation of a manuscript
Seminars and discussion

Schedule:

No hrs	Date	Topic
1	5 th Aug 14	History
2	12 th Aug 14	Concepts and definitions
3	19 th Aug 14	Perspectives
4	22 nd Aug 14	NTFP's and livelihood
5	26 th Aug 14	NTFP's and livelihood
6	2 nd Sept 14	Cultural importance
7	5 th Sept 14	NTFP extraction and utilization
8	9 th Sept 14	NTFP extraction and utilization
9	12 th Sept 14	Valuation of NTFPs
10	16 th Sept 14	Impacts of harvest
11	19 th Sept 14	Monitoring and management
12	23 rd Sept 14	Monitoring and management
13	26 th Sept 14	Impacts related to weeds
14	30 th Sept 14	Impacts related to fire
15	7 th Oct 14	Impacts related to parasites
16	10 th Oct 14	Traditional knowledge
17	14 th Oct 14	Value addition and marketing
18	17 th Oct 14	Value addition and marketing
19	21 st Oct 14	Tenure and partnerships
20	28 th Oct 14	Tenure and partnerships
21	31 st Oct 14	Policies and governance
22	4 th Nov 14	Policies and governance
23	7 th Nov 14	Current and future prospects
24	11 th Nov 14	Current and future prospects
25	14 th Nov 14	Review on NTFP research

1. Theory – 1.5 credit = 24 hours
2. Field exercise (5 days) – 5 hours
3. Exposure visits (2 days) – 2 hours
4. Assignments: Review on NTFP research and manuscript – 1 hours

Assessment:

Class participation: 40%

Field exercise and exposure visits: 30%

Assignments and discussion: 30%

Course instructor: R. Siddappa Setty has 20 years of research experience related on NTFPs. He did his PhD on NTFPs and sustainable harvest related issues with University of Mysore. He has theoretical and field experience related to the topics that are mentioned in this elective (ecology, social, cultural and economic aspects of NTFPs).