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NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), Tribal Livelihood and Sustainable Development of Forest Resources

13TH - 14TH OCTOBER 2023



Organised by
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
KIRORI MAL COLLEGE
(NAAC ACCREDITED A++)
University of Delhi

Sponsored By



ICCSR

NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, NEW DELHI

BACKGROUND

As forest areas throughout the world continue to be under pressure through land use changes and logging, their preservation is increasingly being linked to a strategy of integrating forest conservation with sustainable economic activities. One such aspect is the development of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) enterprises with an underlying assumption that the local communities will conserve and protect forest areas as well as garner economic benefits from them. With changing market patterns worldwide, the free market system has penetrated rural areas in almost all countries and has led to degradation of forest areas and affected rural livelihoods. Hence, the need for NTFP-based development of these forest dwellers has gained attraction in poverty alleviation programmes. Due to the access to the forest to such communities and profitability of NTFPs, it is being seen as an economically acceptable ecological option of development. NTFP-based development is part of a new development paradigm, which focuses on accommodating local livelihoods and sustainable forest resource management. This multidimensional NTFP-based development approach has proven to be attractive to environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), donors and development agencies, leading to policy changes in many countries. The policies, regulations and institutional reforms surrounding tribal title rights is closely linked to the precarity of their livelihoods. Historically, the othering of tribal communities from mainstream society is visible in their treatment as passive subjects in policy. The political economy of these regions is rampant with corporate loot, lobbying and market control of value chains of NTFPs where the legal ambiguities create scope for exploitation of the actual collectors of the produce. Tendu leaves, mahua and medicinal herbs etc. as commercially potent NTFP can provide avenues for livelihood diversification and create the buttress for their food security and socio-economic development.

Although the NTFPs are seen to play a critical role in poverty alleviation programmes, yet they have not benefitted those, for whom the policies are designed and who are the focal points of discourses, debate and discussions. This is the reason why there is a need to give a serious thinking to the process of NTFP-based forest resource management. This seminar aims to discuss various issues attached to NTFPs, their impacts on the lives and livelihoods of tribal communities, poverty alleviation, sustainable development and management of forest resources, policies related to NTFPs and real field situations.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyse the field-level experiences of NTFPs, and obstacles that hinder marginalised local communities from benefiting from NTFP dependent programmes.
2. To understand how value chains and trade negotiations affect the marginality of forest dwellers and the sustainability of forest resources.
3. To evaluate governance, policy issues and livelihood support infrastructure utilising NTFPs for sustainability and draw lessons of wider relevance.

The findings of the Seminar will help policymakers and academicians to understand the complex relationship among various institutions and how the policy regulations fail to achieve the desired objectives of poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability.

ABOUT THE HOST ORGANISATION

KIRORI MAL COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Established in 1954, Kirori Mal College is an institution of academic excellence that has always strived to, and successfully maintained its place as one of the finest colleges within the University of Delhi. Awarded NAAC A++ accreditation, the college believes in ushering in a healthy and supportive atmosphere to its students.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

The Department of Geography was established in 1959 with the objective of contributing to the academic discipline of Geography in India. It is credited of being one of the best Department of Geography in terms of academic excellence and social output. In line with the philosophy of its founding fathers, the Department of Geography has always tried to bring about a synergy between the theory and practical aspects of the subject along with maintaining a perfect balance between the academic pursuits and social engagement.

SUB-THEMES

1. Legal Frameworks and institutional issues of NTFPs
2. Nationalisation and de-nationalisation of NTFPs
3. Livelihood Diversification, Sustainability and Food Security
4. NTFPs, Tribal communities and forest governance
5. Commercialization and Marketing of NTFPs
6. Tribal livelihood and the sustainable development of forest resources
7. Rural development and participatory forest resource management
8. Decentralization and devolution of power in NTFP trade
9. Role of micro-finance in the marketing of NTFPs and sustainable livelihood
10. Ownership Rights and Political Economy of Tribal Communities

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Papers on theoretical, methodological, and case studies of identified themes and subthemes are welcome.

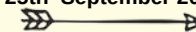
The participants are requested to send their abstracts (not exceeding 300 words) with a maximum of 5 keywords in Times New Roman font and size 12.

The full paper should be sent to geoseminarkmc@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

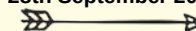
Last date of Registration & Abstract submission

25th September 2023



Acceptance of abstract

28th September 2023



Last date for full paper submission

5th October 2023

REGISTRATION LINK

<https://forms.gle/E7oFw6pwaz8Aepqt5>

