

OPPORTUNITIES and CONSTRAINTS for GATHERING NWFP DATA & STATISTICS

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OVERVIEW

1. WHAT IS FAO , and how it WORKS ?
2. NWFP ? Terms ? Data? Stats ? Issues?
3. What does FAO on NWFP
4. Where to find info, data, publications,....

1. WHAT IS FAO , and how it WORKS ?

- Mandate of FAO : secretariat of its member nations within the United Nations system:
 - www.fao.org
- How FAO works:
 - Governing bodies: Regional Conferences, Thematic Committees (Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry,...at global level) leading towards decision making at the global level (compromise, decentralisation, country-driven)

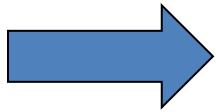
2. NWFP ? Terms ? Issues?

- NWFP: terms (NTFP, minor FP,....)
 - Does not matter as long as clearly described what the chosen term covers
- NWFP: a “resource” becomes a NWFP only when people collect it ?
- To whom do NWFP matter ?

Concept, scope, definitions and terms used

- 30+ terms in use, + new ones. # concepts with (slightly to quite) different scope and content,

“Forest services”; “non-timber – non-wood” ;



Focus on forest dependent peoples, more environmental friendly uses & forest conservation

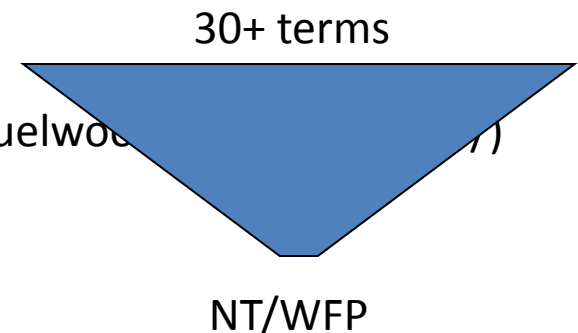
- Utility/relevance of #terms depends on purpose for their use and at which level they are used (local, national, international):

f.ex.;

at local level: any term as long as is well defined

at national level: statistics, legislation (NTFPxNWFP: fuelwood (1))

international: trade/ statistics/ legal instruments



key examples

- **FOODS:** bushmeat, insects, nuts, gums, honey, syrups, oils, vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, spices, beverages, medicinals, fodder,...
- **FIBRES:** bamboo, rattan, cork, lianas, bark, kapok, sisal, “fuelwood/charcoal”, silk, skins,
- **CHEMICALS:** resins, gums, latexes, aromatics, lac, insecticides, tannins, dyes, essential oils (neem, tung-oil, copaiba,...), wax, wood tar,
- **ORNAMENTALS:** live/dried organisms - plants, trophies, ...
- **“SERVICES”:** grazing, water, eco-tourism, hunting, biodiversity, carbon stock, cultural/religious,

Socio-economic importance of NWFP

- **1. at Household & Village level**
 - Subsistence, cultural & spiritual, gender (women, children),
 - informal sector, poverty alleviation,....
- **2. at Country level**
 - overshadowed by “GDP” of other sectors (“timber”/ fuelwood”; agriculture; ...
exception of those (few) “industrialized” (bamboo, pine resin, gum arabic, rattan, cork,..
 - SE poorly understood/documentated by countries and few show-up in available country statistics (Brazil, Sudan, USA, Finland, ...), as data gathering is very complex (and expensive) – with no or limited tax income from NWFP..
- **3. International trade level**
 - (“NWFP”) approx. 1/10 of value trade in primary timber products. Available COMTRADE data show declining relative importance over last 2 decades.

Lack of methodologies, tools, data and \$ to assess their full SE contribution

Trends in production and trade Key drivers

and implications for people and Governments

- **Domestication**
ex.: bamboo, mushrooms,.. (shift from “forest to farm”) FOODS
- **Technology - substitution (obsolete or extinct)**
ex.: chewing gum (chickle) obsolete
medicinal plant example : extinct
- **Social justice** (empowerment, resource access, livelihoods,...)
- **Economic** (globalization, acces to markets/ information, tax, employment)
- **Environmental** (SFM & SD, biodiversity,services, deforestation, ..)

Factors influencing use/value of NWFP –

some key examples:

- (1) deforestation leading to a reduction or loss (extinction) of the resources/species;
- (2) social economic trends, which entails migration to urban areas, evolving towards more intensive and specialized farming systems and increased rural labour costs with fewer rural people available and/or less time left for NWFP gathering activities;
- (3) global trading practices leading to low(er) prices paid to producers (as several NWFP are (can be) imported or produced cheaper elsewhere) and;
- (4) stagnation of market importance of and investments in the overall NWFP sector. Sum of “Winners” and “losers” result in zero growth for the sector (obsolete, cheaper substitutes (either synthetic’s or farmed products)).
- (5) scattered production over large areas with many producers

Major challenges

- **majority produced from gathering/hunting on “public”-owned lands** (“tragedy of commons” - leads to species depletion (large fauna spp./flora: medicinal plants)
- **conflicts among forest user stake holders:** “timber – wood versus food” (ex.: sapelli wood versus edible caterpillars: logging companies versus indigenous peoples)
- **fragmentation of NWFP production**, + local importance
- poor institutional, legal, policy and regulamentary framework (most of production/sector is “**informal**” and for subsistence use)
- low technological level and limited value added by producers
- indigenous knowledge and practices are disappearing (deforestation, rural exodus, changing food habits,.....)

3. What does FAO on NWFP

- FAO budget (RP by year): US\$ 500 Million
 - Forestry Department : 3 % (NWFP : 1% of FD budget)
- Mission:
 - Gathering statistics on production and trade
 - Information sharing and Networking
 - Technical Assistance

4. Where to find info, data, publications.

- FAO FRA and Country Reports
- NWFP webpage:
 - Publications
 - Statistics
 - Information on Projects
 - Events

Activities by FAO Forestry Dept.

- awareness raising on the contribution of forests to food security (direct + indirect)
- improving technical knowledge on major NWFP (honey, mushrooms, edible insects, nuts, ...) and topics (domestication, assessment, adding more value, enterprise development,...)
- support to institutional capacity of member country's forestry agencies, curriculum devel
- improving related Policy and regulamentory framework
- technical assistance (field projects)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- need for awareness raising (Forestry depart. : “Forests are more than just wood” !)
- need for cross-sectorial approach when developing (edible) NWFP (involvement of Forestry, Agriculture, Nutrition, Health, Trade,...)
- improve/ adjust technical skills and indigenous knowledge base (incl. nutritional data of forest foods)
- adjust policy/ legal/ regulamentary frameworks governing production and trade of forest foods