

The role of NWFPs in local livelihoods: Balancing access to resources and markets



Structure of presentation

- Diversity in NWFP production and governance systems
 - Production systems
 - Contribution to local livelihoods
 - Market systems
 - Governance systems
- Originally prepared in relation to NWFP characteristics in tropical countries
- Adapted to European conditions

Non-wood forest products

- A fuzzy concept
- Original terminology
 - Minor forest products
- Although new term still open to interpretation
 - Minor?
 - Forest product?



NWFP: a minor product?

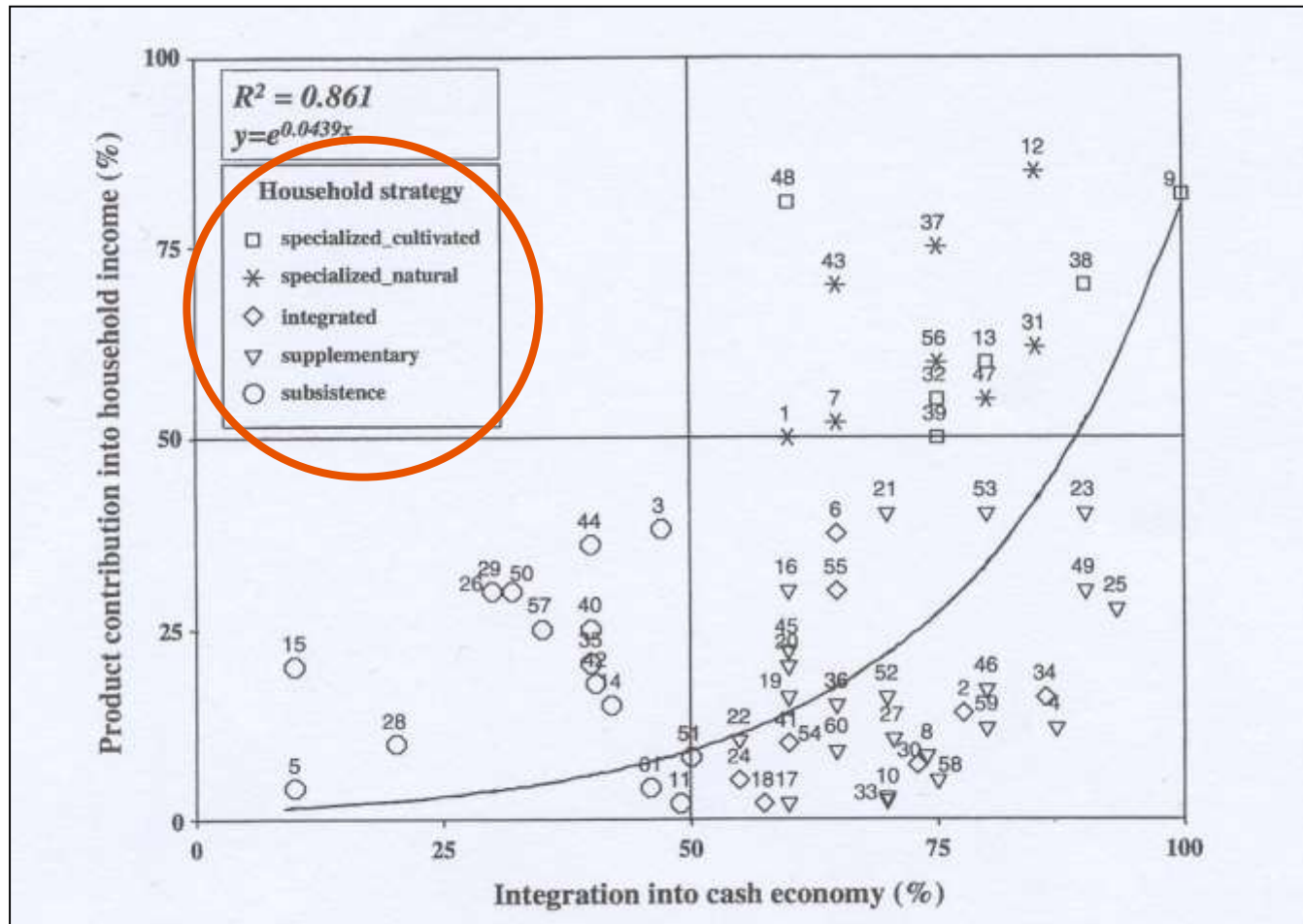
- In respect to their role in forest management
 - In comparison the value of timber and the impact of timber harvesting?
 - In comparison to products recognized in formal forest management plans?
- In respect to their role for local people?
 - Products for subsistence use of forest dwelling people?
 - Products used for income earning during emergencies?
 - Products having a minor contribution to diversified rural incomes?

Diversity in production systems

- Natural forests vs adapted forests
 - Mixed forest gardens
 - Plantations
- Wild species vs domesticated species



Variation in contribution of NWFPs to local household economies (Belcher, Ruiz-Perez and Achdiawan,



Diverse roles of NWFPs in livelihood

■ Survival strategy

- NWFPs as last resort to secure food and prevent destitution

■ Coping strategy

- NWFPs providing security under periodic adverse conditions

■ Diversification strategy

- NWFPs providing means of supplementing/diversifying agricultural production

■ Accumulation strategy

- NWFPs providing means for specialization of household



Situation in Europe

- Three main types of NWFP producers
 - Formal combination of production and harvesting
 - Forest owners
 - Agroforesters
 - Formal harvesters
 - Concession holders
 - Informal harvesters
 - Recreational harvesting

Categories of NWFPs in Europe

- Mass-produced by forest owner or concessionaire
- Specialized production by forest owner or concessionaire
- Complementary production by forest owner
- Free commercial product collected by external entrepreneur with formal permission of forest owner
- Recreational product collected by visitors

Different types of markets

- Home consumption
- Local market
- (Inter)national market for mass-produced resources
 - Often organized differently than timber markets
- Niche markets
 - For biological and nature products
 - For products of geographic origin
 - For fair-trade products

Relation between marketing system and production system

■ Home consumption

- Often open access forest resource for collectors
 - No conscious technical management

■ Niche markets

- Complimentary production to other rural/farming activities
 - In modified rural forests and agroforestry systems
- Specialized production conform certification standards

■ General markets

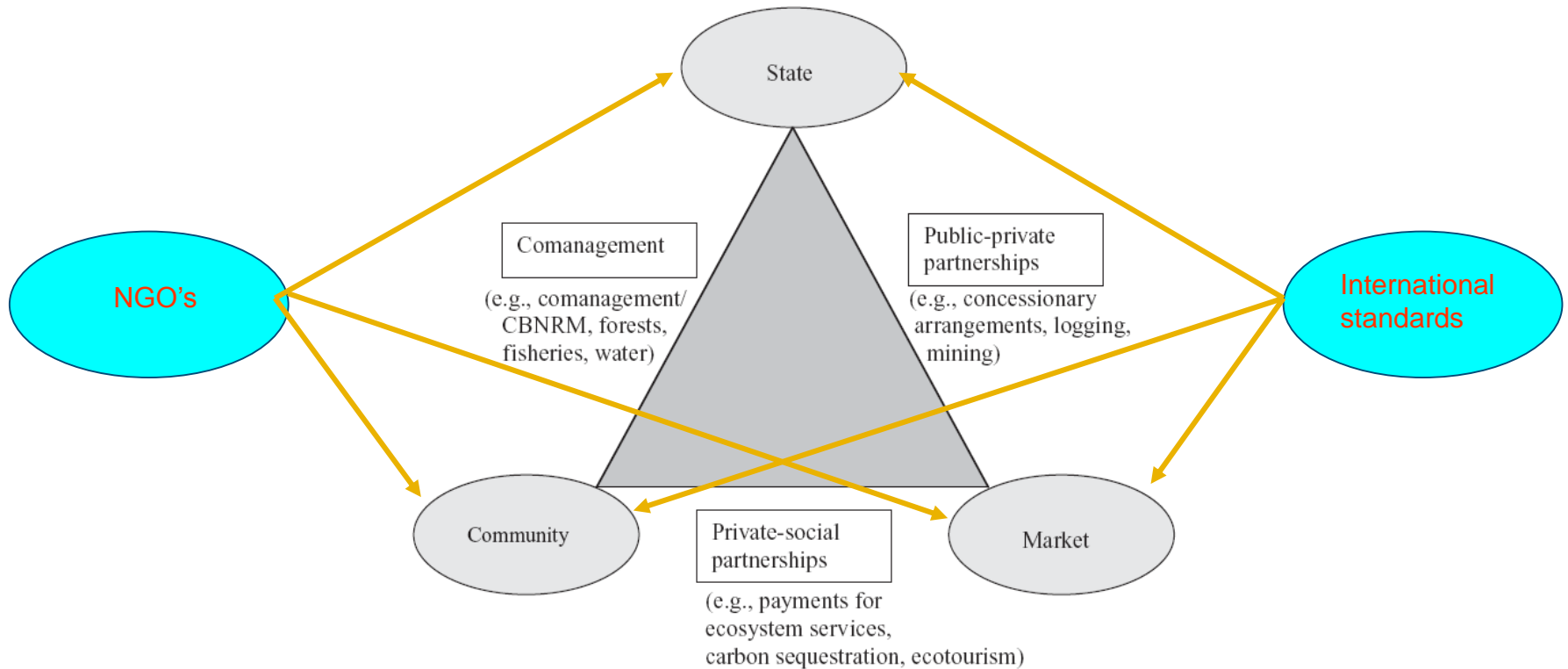
- Concession system focused on sustainable harvesting
- Specialized production systems (plantations)

Diversity in governance of NWFPs

- NWFP governance:
The process of decision-making and implementation of the organisation and regulation of the use of NTFPs
 - Production
 - Trade



Diversity in stakeholders in environmental governance



Two traditional systems of NWFP

governance

■ State concession system

- State and market main stakeholders
- Focused on bureaucratic control on resource access and state revenue earning
 - Selected 'high potential' products

■ Locally embedded system

- Communities main stakeholders
 - Local tenure arrangements for lands and trees
 - Informal trade arrangements
- Focused on 'local livelihood' products
 - Subsistence use
 - Additional income earning

Newly emerging NWFP governance systems

- New forms of state-community interaction in governance of NWFP production and trade
 - Partial devolution state authority to local communities in the form of formal schemes of community forest production and management
 - Strengthening of role community stakeholders by development of producer/trading cooperatives
 - Often NGO assisted
- Increasing international regulation
 - CBD, certification
- New forms of partnerships between local producer and socially-responsive market organisations

General conclusion

- **Great diversity in NWFP production systems**
 - Gradual transition between NWFP production and horticultural/plantation production systems
 - Often differentiation in governance systems for high-value 'strategic' and low-value 'basic needs' products
- **Two contrasting development options**
 - Conservation and sustainable management of natural forests
 - Adaptive management of forested landscapes adjusted to human needs
- **Role in local livelihoods depends on two main governance issues**
 - Access to resources
 - Access to markets

Conclusion re comparative analysis European NWFPs

- Which basic parameters to consider?
 - Production systems, marketing systems, governance systems
 - Interactions between major parameters
- Options for classifying European NWFPs
 - Systematic characterization of a range of specific NWFPs in different countries with subsequent cluster analysis of emergent features (CIFOR approach)
 - Identification of major classification models and application in characterizing main product groups in different countries
 - Others?

Relevant European publications

- Bauer, J., Kniivila, M. and Schmithusen, F. (2004) Forest legislation in Europe: how 23 countries approach the obligation to reforest, public access and use of non-wood forest products. UNECE and FAO, Geneva Timber and Forest Discussion Paper No. 37.
- Janse G. and A. Ottitsch (2005) Factors influencing the role of non-wood forest products and services. *Forest Policy and Economics* 7(3): 309-319
- Mantau, U., Wong, J.L.G. and Curl, S. (2007) Towards a taxonomy of forest goods and services. *Small-scale Forestry* 6:391–409
- Pettenella, D. and Maso, D. (2009) The role of networks in non-wood forest products and services marketing in Europe. In: M. Palahi, Y. Birot, F. Bravo and E. Gorriz (eds) *Modelling, valuing and managing Mediterranean forest ecosystems for non-timber goods and services*. *EFI Proceedings* 57: 143-155.
- Wiersum, K.F., Ingram, V.J. and Ros-Tonen, M.A.F. (2013) Governing access to resources and markets in non-timber forest product chains. *Forests, Trees and Livelihoods* (on-line).

Thank you for your attention

