



## Marketing of Minor Forest Product in Amravati District

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**ABSTRACT-** Forest continues to be of great economic importance and source of important raw materials for many industries and provide employment to people living in or around forests. It is recognized as renewable natural resources. Some of the products obtained from forest trees, plants and shrubs have medicinal properties. The Ayurvedic system of treatment is primarily based on the medicine obtained from vegetables kingdom. Forest is considered as means of sustaining ecological balance and the most important single factor to protect the environments.

The average family size was 5.44. The major minor forest products found in study area were mahua, gum and charoli. Participation of tribal farmers in local institution was satisfactory, but participation of landless labourer was poor. The education standard of tribal farmers as well as landless labourer was low. Most of the respondents sale their MFPs in weekly market. However, some of them were selling their MFPs to local marchant, taluka level traders, Adivasi Multipurpose Co-operative Society. The season (month of collection) of above MFPs varies from product to product however, common season of availability of MFPs was during April-June. The total annual estimated gross returns from MFPs for tribal farmers were Rs.2549, whereas the operating cost incurred by tribal farmers was Rs.1673.Benefit Cost Ratio was 1.52. This revealed that there were minor differences in cost, returns and profitability structure of farm.

**Key words:** Minor Forest Products, Operating cost, Employment Generation.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Minor forest products technically defined as all vegetables and animal products other than firewood and timber obtained from the forest. These products are mainly used in pharmaceutical perfumery foods, fine chemicals, soaps and pesticides industries. Natural products (plant based chemicals and their derivatives) play a major role in chemical industries. Forest products are divided into two kinds viz. the major and minor. The major forest products are the timber, small wood and the firewood. Technically, all vegetables, animals and mineral products other than timber and firewood obtained from forest are collectively termed as 'minor forest products' (MFPs). The area under forest in the Maharashtra state at the end of 2001-2002 was 61.9 thousand Sq.Km. which accounted for 20 per cent of the geographical area of state. Out of which 3502 Sq. Km. (317112 ha.) area is in Amravati district, which accounted for 28.68 per cent of the geographical area of Amravati district.. It includes mainly in Morshi, Chikhaldara, Dharni tahasils. In Dharni and Chikhaldara tahasil the forest area accounted as 18645 ha and 276787 ha. respectively. According to the NCA various items of minor forest products have the potential to bring about an economic revolution for tribals in the country. Traditional market forces are still effectively operating in collection, marketing and processing of minor forest products (MFPs). Under this traditional market network with predominant role of middleman, the unorganised forest dwellers have been receiving quite low prices for MFPs in the tribal dominated pockets of the country. This feature is particularly true in tribal dominated villages of Amravati district of Maharashtra, therefore, this study was undertaken for knowing the

types of MFPs, its procurement and disposal in Amravati district of Maharashtra state and role of MFPs in forest dwelling household economy

## II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specific research requires adopting an appropriate method and procedure for conducting investigation, analysis and interpretation. The economic investigation starts with selection of study area villages and households, collection of data and finally use of methods and techniques of analysis to arrive at the conclusion for the objectives. Amravati district consists of three tribal dominated tahasil of which two tahsils i.e. Dharni and Chikhaldara were selected purposively on the basis of maximum area under forest cover. Mahua flower, Mahua seed, Charoli, Gum of Dhawda tree were considered for this study as they were having maximum quantity of collection in this forest area. The data were collected by survey method for the year 2005-06. The selected households were interviewed personally with the help of specially designed questionnaire for the purpose. The detailed information on the following aspects was obtained. A simple tabular analysis was carried out with the help of Statistical Tools such as average, ratio and percentage.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From table-1, it is observed that the average family size of total members was 5.44, out of which 1.80 (33 per cent) were male, 1.60 (29.50 per cent) were female and 2.04 (37.50 per cent) were children.

**Table-1 : Average Family Size and its Composition.**

Sr. No.	Particulars	Average Family Size
1.	Male	1.8 (33.00)
2.	Female	1.6 (29.50)
3.	Children	2.04 (37.50)
<b>Total :</b>		<b>5.44 (100.00)</b>

From table-2 it is observed that the total geographical area of selected farmers was 52.88 (ha.) out of which 6.4 hectare area is under forest, 2.42 hectare area under fallow land whereas the net cropped area is 44.06 hectare i.e. 83.32 per cent, 4.88 hectare area sown more than once and gross cropped area is 48.94 hectare.

**Table-2: Land Utilization Pattern of Selected Farmers**

Sr. No.	Particulars	Area (ha.)	% to total geographical area
1.	Total Geographical Area	52.88	100
2.	Area Under Forest	6.4	12.10
3.	Fallow Land	2.42	4.57
4.	Net Cropped Area	44.06	83.32

5.	Area Sown more than once	4.88	11.07*
6.	Gross Cropped Area	48.94	111.07*

This table 3 shows the season of (MFPs) availability of various products, the maximum quantities of MFPs were obtained during April-June. MFPs were used in medicinal and home consumption purpose.

**Table-3 : Information Regarding Season of Collection and Use of MFPs.**

Sr. No.	Name of MFPs	Scientific Name	Season	Use
1.	Moha	<u>Madhuca latifolia</u>	May-June	Medicinal & Home consumption
2.	Gum (Dhawda)	<u>Anogeissus latifolia</u>	April-May	Medicinal & Home consumption
3.	Charoli	<u>Buchanania latifolia</u>	April-May	Medicinal & Home consumption

From table-4 it was observed that the total quantity of marketed MFPs of selected collectors was 10125.50 Kg. with a value of Rs.63,734/-. The quantity sold of moha was 10080 Kg with a value of Rs.60,959/- i.e. (95.64 per cent) and the quantity of Gum sold was 38.5 Kg. of Rs.2025/- i.e. (3.18 per cent) and quantity of Charoli was sold 7 Kg. of Rs.750/- i.e. (1.18 per cent).

**Table-4 : Marketed Minor Forest Product of Selected Farmers**

Sr. No.	Forest Product	Quantity sold in year (Kg.)	Value (Rs.)
1.	Moha	10080 (99.55)	60959 (95.64)
2.	Gum	38.5 (0.38)	2025 (3.18)
3.	Charoli	7.00 (0.07)	750 (1.18)
	<b>Total :</b>	<b>10125.5 (100.00)</b>	<b>63734 (100.00)</b>

From table-5, it was observed that the collectors have annual employment of 60.5 days for landless labour was 57.05 days. The total gross income of collectors was Rs.61185/- and Rs.2549/- for landless labour. The annual income per household was Rs.2549/- for collectors as well as for landless labours. It was also observed that the income per day for collectors was Rs.42.48 and for landless labour was Rs.44.68, respectively.

**Table-5 : Per Household Employment and Income Generation**

Sr. No.	Particulars	Total farmer (24)	Landless labours (01)
1.	Per day employment (hr.)		
	Male	4.13	3.94
	Female	4.48	4.19

	<b>Total :</b>	<b>8.61</b>	<b>8.13</b>
2.	Per week employment (days)		
	Male	3.62	3.45
	Female	3.92	3.67
	<b>Total :</b>	<b>7.54</b>	<b>7.12</b>
3.	Per month employment (days)		
	Male	14.50	13.81
	Female	15.70	14.71
	<b>Total :</b>	<b>30.20</b>	<b>28.52</b>
4.	Annual Employment in (days)		
	Male	29.00 (47.93)	27.62 (48.41)
	Female	31.50 (52.07)	29.43 (51.59)
	<b>Total :</b>	<b>60.50 (100)</b>	<b>57.05 (100)</b>
	Total Gross Income :	61185	2549
	Annual Income per Household	2549	2549
	Income per day	42.48	44.68

The MFPs are obtained from either own farm or from Govt. forest area. It is observed from table-6 that, per farmer total operating cost was Rs.1673/- consisting of male labour and female labour of Rs.870/- and Rs. 788./-, respectively. Whereas transportation charges was Rs.15/- per farmer. Among the major returns, Rs.2438/- from Mahuva, Rs.81/- and Rs.30/- from Gum and Charoli, respectively. It was observed that per farm net return from sale of MFPs is Rs.876/- and B-C ratio was observed 1.52.

**Table-6 : Per Farmer Operating Cost and Return from MFPS**

Sr. No.	Particulars	Qty. (No.)	Value (Rs.)
1.	Operating Cost		
(a)	Male (days)	29.00	870.00
(b)	Female (days)	31.50	788.00

	<b>Total :</b>	<b>60.50</b>	<b>1658.00</b>
(c)	Transporting charges (Rs.)	--	15.00
(d)	Other material used (bamboo basket, gunny bag)	--	--
	<b>Total Operating Cost :</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1673.00</b>
2.	Gross Return		
(a)	Mahuva (Kg)	384.00	2438.00
(b)	Charoli (Kg)	0.24	30.00
(c)	Gum (Kg)	1.54	81.00
	Gross Return		2549.00
3.	Net Return	--	876.00
4.	B.C. Ratio	--	1.52

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

1. The average family size was 5.44.
2. The major minor forest products found in study area were mahua, gum and charoli.
3. Participation of tribal farmers in local institution was satisfactory, but participation of landless labourer was poor.
4. The education standard of tribal farmers as well as landless labourer was low.
5. Most of the respondents sale their MFPs in weekly market. However, some of them were selling their MFPs to local merchant, taluka level traders, Adivasi Multipurpose Co-operative Society.
6. The season (month of collection) of above MFPs varies from product to product however, common season of availability of MFPs was during April-June.
7. The total annual estimated gross returns from MFPs for tribal farmers were Rs.2549, whereas the operating cost incurred by tribal farmers was Rs.1673.
8. Benefit Cost Ratio was 1.52. This revealed that there were minor differences in cost, returns and profitability structure of farm.

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