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## Assembling and marketing of minor forest produces through co-operative societies by tribal community in tribal belts of Chitrakoot Dham region of Uttar Pradesh

**Jitendra Kumar, Upesh Kumar and RK Kushwaha**

### Abstract

Forest plays an important role particularly in an agricultural economy. The revenue from the major forest produce in India has been increasing by about 12% per year after independence. Bundelkhand is the important agricultural region. In U.P. forest plays an important role in the country of this region as 36.42 per cent area is covered with forest. The study of the problem of collection of minor forest produces 240 mates and assemblers were selected randomly. District wise details of mates and assemblers are presented. 128 assemblers only 20 were landless agricultural labourer. Rest 108 assemblers were cultivator.

**Keywords:** marketing, minor forest produces, tribal

### Introduction

Forest plays an important role particularly in an agricultural Economy like India apart from its ecological importance forest produce both major and minor are equally significant from revenue point of view. The revenue from the major forest produce in India has been increasing by about 12 percent per year after independence. Even if we take the note of inflationary rate into account, there is no denying the fact that revenue from the forest produce is both buoyant and elastic. This obviously is a seller's market. This feature is equally prominent in the revenue earning of the minor forest produce. Which has been growing at annual growth rate of 12 percent prior to independence, the forest department had indifferent attitude towards minor forest produce, may be due to their lower prices. But increase, in the forest produce has capacity to bring economic revolution for tribals and other people of weaker sections living in remote parts of dense forest, this study becomes more relevant.

Bundelkhand is the important Agricultural region in U.P. Forest plays an important role in the economy of this region as 36.42 percent area is covered with forest. Bundelkhand accounts for 17 percent of total state population and ranks 8th in position in terms of population in the state. Bundelkhand region accounts for 10.8 percent of the total forest area and ranks 1st in position in terms of forest area of the state the position of this region in terms of forest comes, Banda, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Mirzapur, Obra, Varanasi, This reveals the importance of forest in the economy of this region.

Some of the important forest produce in this region are Bamboo, Babool, Tendu Leaves, Assan, Kusum, Piar, Ghauuta, Bhurkund, Gambar, Bell, Kaikat, Sal, Salai, Jamun, Arjun, Awla, Hare, Bahera, Dudha, Koraya, Mahua, Khair, Karam etc. These forest produces do not suffer from lack of demand, but the complete marketing process is being controlled by middlemen. The importance of the marketing of the forest produce in this region is also revealed by the fact that many small and cottage industries are dependent on these products. Bamboo is important ingredient of forest produce. Approximately 13 to 15 thousand tonnes of Bamboo are perceived from the local forest produce per year. Industries of paper manufacturing used to get 2540 tonnes of Bamboos per year from the forest for the manufacturer of paper. Apart from this, approximately 1086 Tonnes bamboos were used for local needs. Karyawood which is locally available here, is used for making wooden toys by tribals of the forest. The main market for wooden toys is Varanasi in U. P.

Firewood is also available here in abundance which is mostly marketed outside V.P. Particularly Bihar by Middlemen. Because of the huge margin kept for the selves by

middlemen the tribal's heavily is able to get subsistence for their toil and labour the leather industry on small basis is also flourishing in respective District. Which are available in this forest area are used for Tanning of leather Sawi grass is used

for making ropes. Mahua, Ken and piar are used by local people. Chiraunji, type of dry fruit, are exchanged by weight for rice by middlemen. Thus, the market price appears to be 25 times higher than the prices received by Tribals.

**Table 1:** Distribution of forest area in U.P.2007-08

S. No.	District	% of forest area in the District of the total forest area of the state	Percentage of forest area in the district of total geographical area of the district.
1.	Banda	1.72	0.67
2.	Jhansi	1.93	0.91
3.	Jalaun	0.8	0.03
4.	Lalitpur	1.67	0.81
5.	Hamirpur	1.96	0.92
6.	Mahoba	1.01	0.73
7.	Mirzapur	2.76	1.23
8.,	Obra	1.62	0.82
9.	Gazipur	1.12	0.73
10.	Gorakhpur	2.17	1.41
11.	Lakhimpur	2.16	1.40
12.	Kausambhi	2.14	1.96
13.	Allahabad	1.62	0.96

**Source:** Seasons & Crop Reports 2007-08 Directorates of statistics Govt. of U.P.

This is shows the exploitation of tribals in a marketing system which is predominantly pre-capitalist. Thus the middlemen earn huge profit out of these forest produce extracted by local inhabitants in the forest which are mainly Tribals. A Rough estimate of forest produce and their marketing in thus district reveals that though these forest produce are collected and extracted by local people, but almost the entire process of marketing being controlled by a personalized system dependent on traditional, customs and ignorance on the part of tribals. The Tendu leaves is another important forest produce in this region in terms of production. The loss of revenue from Tendu leaves was obviously due to defective system of marketing, the u.p. state forest development corporation "has taken over the collection, strong and marketing of tendu leaves from the year 200" the main purpose of the corporation is to provide gainful employment and better income to the local tribals, schedule castes and other weaker sections in the collection of Tendu leaves and also other forest produce and provide scientific storage facilities so that marketing of Tendu leaves can fetch good prices, but this has hardly been realized. Pooling has been an important marketing function for any kind of produce. The problem of marketing in tribal areas typically differs with that of Non-tribal areas due to prevalence of minor forest produces in tribal areas, apart from Agricultural crops, give reasonable income to the tribal's. There is no defined market place in the tribal areas where it could be sold even if some traders exist sparsely here and there, prices offered by them are not only unremunerative but also gives no reasonable return on labour days spent on its collection. In order to provide reasonable income to tribal's co-operative societies have been marketing minor forest produce. These cooperative societies are marketing minor forest produces in the country not only the protect the tribal's from being exploited by the Individual traders but also to provide some economic benefits.

### Objectives

In view of the above the article intends to investigate various aspects of pooling minor forest produces with the following objectives.

- To find out the economic status of individuals who involved in pooling the minor forest produces.

- To work-out the total quantity of different types of minor forest produce pooled by the individuals.
- To find out the economic benefits obtained from pooling of minor forest produces in terms of wage employment by the individuals.

### Review of Literature

Madhusudan Bandi, (2012) <sup>[1]</sup> analysed at the procurements, what small amount the forest-subordinate individuals had subsequent to the provincial administration, when present day forest administration started. Under the forest approach the forest was held, banishing local people from entering their own territories, and it has been proceeding into the present times. The paper investigates how after a long battle the FRA at last appeared with an affirmation by the legislature about the authentic shameful acts allotted to the poor forest-subordinate individuals. The paper further talks about the status of FRA execution with regards to the two states, and introduces a review of its usage at the national level. At last, it investigations the conceivable ramifications on the jobs of the forest-subordinate individuals in the setting of this Act and the looming challenges ahead

Golam Rasul *et al.*, (2008) <sup>[2]</sup> investigate the part of NTFPs in occupations change activities and consider late activities expected to upgrade their protection and economical administration. It prescribes approaches to improve the capability of NTFPs, both to strengthen country vocation and to add to India's social, financial, and natural prosperity.

Tribal welfare and development (2015) <sup>[3]</sup> directed by Ministry of Tribal welfare to transmit the exercises led by the service, it highlights the projects and strategies, research data, demographical pattern of Tribals, education rate of Tribal population and budgetary allotments for the year 2015 and Expenditure of Ministry of Tribal undertakings.

Manish Mishra and Mukta Shrivastava (2015) <sup>[4]</sup> conducted a study in Central region of Madhya Pradesh to identify the markets for NTFPs and he observed that Neighborhood markets or Haat Bazaar are markets that for the most part occur on a week after week basis in a Playground or an open field, which is accessible to cluster of forest villages. Most of the of the population depending straightforwardly on small scale agribusiness, Haat Bazaar offers an extraordinary open

door for producers to increase their profits and change over underutilized species, restorative plants or Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). As of late, the system of Haat Bazaar, which was by and large rehearsed in the focal India, has now picked up in notoriety and the practice has spread to huge town and or tahsil places. In remote forest villages, the tribals have just choice left is Haat Bazaar, in which he can acquire cash subsequent to selling Amla, Mahua, Char, Bael and several unprocessed forest products.

Shruti Garg and Vandana Sharma (2015) [5] attempted to study the initiative taken across the world and in India to calculate the Forest Resources Accounting (FRA) including its evolution, development, issues concerned and the recommendations the way forwarded to account the forest resources in India.

### Methodology

For the study of the problem of collection of minor forest produces 240 mates and assemblers were selected randomly and surveyed through a pre-tested questionnaires. District

wise details of mates and assemblers are presented in table.

**Table 2:** District-wise Mates and Assemblers surveyed for minor forest produces under the sample co-operative societies

S. No.	Name of the District	Mates	Assemblers	Total
1.	Jhansi	28 (48.24)	32 (52.76)	60 (100.00)
2.	Banda	25 (44.32)	28 (55.68)	53 (100.00)
3.	Jalaun	21 (51.14)	24 (58.86)	45 (100.00)
4.	Hamirpur	27 (47.26)	28 (42.74)	55 (100.00)
5.	Lalitpur	11 (48.12)	16 (51.88)	27 (100.00)
Total		112 (43.60)	128 (46.40)	240 (100.00)

### Results and Discussion

It is important to know the economic status of Mates and Assemblers as they have been paid daily wages for collection and pooling of minor forest produces among the 128 assemblers only 20 were landless agricultural laborers. Rest 108 Assemblers were cultivators. The average size of holding of all the assemblers was 1.18ha. The district-wise detail are presented in table.

**Table 3:** Economic status of Mates and Assemblers

S. No.	Name of the District	Mates		Assemblers	
		Cultivators	Agriculture Labourers	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers
		No Operational holding(Ha)		No Operational holding(ha)	
1.	Jhansi	24 (1.10)	4 (11.12)	27 (0.70)	4
2.	Banda	27 (3.05)	3(10.17)	28 (1.29)	5
3.	Jalaun	25 (1.67)	2(06.32)	19 (L 57)	4
4.	Hamirpur	16 (1.02)	1(03.61)	16 (0.88)	4
5.	Lalitpur	10 (0.94)	-	18 (0.79)	3
Total		102 (92.17)	10(7.83)	108(83.16)	20 (16.84)

The same Mates are being engaged in assembling of Tendu leaves and Sal seeds there were very few mates who pool only type of minor forest produce. The system of engaging. The same mates has been in existence because Tendu leaves and sal seeds are available in the same area of the co operative

societies. Moreover, collection of sal seeds starts just after collection season of tendu leaves is over, so in the same booth pooling of sal seeds is done in Table gives the details of Number of Mates engaged in assembling various kinds of minor forest produces.

**Table 4:** Number of mates dealing with various kinds of minor forest produces

S. No.	Name of The District	No. of Mates dealing with				Total
		Tendu Leaves	Sal Seeds	Tassar Cocoon	Sabai gress	
1.	Jhansi	22(52.18)	24(48.14)	-	-	46(100.00)
2.	Banda	18 (56.12)	16(42.10)	-	-	34(100.00)
3.	Jalaun	26 (51.16)	5 (11.32)	-	-	31(100.00)
4.	Hamirpur	17 (52.27)	3 (4.36)	-	-	20(100.00)
5.	Lalitpur	13 (100.00)	-	-	-	13(100.00)
Total		96 (69.32)	48(30.68)			144(100.00)

In Jhansi 22(52.18) and 24(42.10) mates were engaged in pooling of Tendu leaves and Sal seeds respectively. In Banda District 18(52.16) and 16(42.10) of the mates were engaged in pooling of Tendu Leaves and sal seeds respectively. In Jalaun, Hamirpur and Lalitpur mates were engaged in pooling of Tendu leaves and sal seeds the data were mentioned in above Table. Information regarding the collection of minor forest produces by the assemblers has been given in Table. It

represents more or less similar findings. Just after collection of Tendu leaves the collection season of sal seeds starts. The only variation is, that assemblers of Jhansi, Banda, Jalaun and Lalitpur districts were also collecting Tassar Cocoon. Sabai grass was due to special type of forest trees and existence of marginal land in this district. In all the district booths setup by the co-operative societies are for pooling Tendu leaves & sal seeds.

**Table 5:** Number of Assemblers Dealing with various kinds of Minor forest produces

S. No.	Name of The District	No. of Assemblers dealing with				Total
		Tendu Leaves	Sal Seeds	Tassar Cocoon	Sabai gress	
1.	Jhansi	23(51.16)	19(46.14)	2(4.16)	-	44(100.00)
2.	Banda	17 (54.15)	10(21.11)	3(6.28)	-	30(100.00)
3.	Jalaun	14 (36.11)	14 (23.16)	1(2.11)	4(7.04)	31(100.00)
4.	Hamirpur	16 (16.23)	6 (17.62)	3(6.19)	-	25(100.00)

5.	Lalitpur	22 (20.00)	5(16.12)	2(16.2)	-	29(100.00)
Total		92 (61.11)	54(30.16)	11(5.67)	4(3.06)	161(100.00)

The Mates pooled 935.10 and 723.16 metric tonnes of Tendu leaves and Sal seeds respectively the selected districts. The mates of Jhansi district pooled 412.26 M.T. (69.76%) and 364.17M.T. (94.16%) of Tendu leaves and Sal seeds respectively. In Banda district the mates pooled 254.10M.T. (43.99%) and 304.26 M.T. (42.14%). Tendu leaves and Sal

seeds respectively. In Jalaun District Comparatively pooling of both Tendu leaves and sal seeds has been lower 112.10 M.T.(46.14%) and 7.12 M.T. (50.76) respectively. In Hamirpur and Lalitpur District the quantity and percentage mentioned in Table.

**Table 6:** Total quantity of different kinds of Minor forest produces collected by Mates

S. No.	Name of The District	Total quantity collected (M. T.)		Quantity collected per Mate (M.T.)	
		Tendu Leaves	Sal Seeds	Tendu Leaves	Sal Seeds
1.	Jhansi	361.16(43.99)	372.12(51.16)	17.11	16.21
2.	Banda	254.10(47.12)	304.26(42.14)	14.26	24.12
3.	Jalaun	112.10(46.14)	116.20(50.76)	8.14	1.16
4.	Hamirpur	147.17(35.71)	-	7.21	24.12
5.	Lalitpur	94.15(26.90)	-	6.26	-
Total		935.10(100.00)	723.16(100.00)	10.21	16.19

Taking all the district together, on an average of Mates pooled 10.21 metric tonnes and 16.19M.T. of Tendu leaves and sal seeds respectively. Comparative analysis of data of the district Indicates that per Mate pooling in Jhansi district was 17.11 M.T. followed by Lalitpur District 6.16 M.T. and Banda District 14.26 M.T. Pooling of sal seeds was highest in Banda District (24.12 M.T.) followed by Jhansi (16.21M.T.) and Lalitpur District(1.10M.T.). For all the districts collection of

minor forest collection of minor forest produces has been always more to the extent of 1536.17M. T., 41.14 M. T. and 21032 pieces of Tendu leaves Sal seeds and Tussor Cocoon respectively. Among the districts, in Jhansi collection of Tendu leaves has been highest (973.12 M.T.) followed by Jalaun district (324.72 M.T.). Total collection of sal seeds has been highest also in Jhansi district (11.24M.T.) followed by Banda District (9.93 M.T.).

**Table 7:** Quantity of Different kinds of Minor forest produces collected by Assemblers

S. No	Name of The District	Total quantity collected(M.T.)			Quantity collected per Assembler		
		Tendo Leaves	Sal Seeds	Tassor Cocoon	Tendu Leaves	Sal Seeds	Tassor Cocoon
1.	Jhansi	973.12(62.19)	11.24(24.12)	-	48.12	0.91	-
2.	Banda	112.46(14.21)	9.83(9.16)	-	9.25	1.40	-
3.	Jalaun	324.72(45.12)	6.52(5.24)	-	11.14	1.40	-
4.	Hamirpur	28.62(2.17)	7.12(2.14)	14020(74.16)	7.2	1.21	6100
5.	Lalitpur	17.85(1.11)	4.23(1.72)	7012(36.18)	5.62	0.96	1800
Total		1536.17(100.00)	41.14	21032	15.92	0.62	29.12

Per Assembler collection of Tendu leaves has been highest in Jhansi District (48.12M.T.) followed in Jalaun District (1.40M.T.) followed by Hamirpur district (1.26M.T.). Collection of Tassor cocoon has been highest in Hamirpur (District (61 00 pieces). The main aimjk of pooling minor forest produces has been to generate employment among the

mates and assemblers. Among the sample mates in the five districts 202935-mandays per year had been generated. In Jhansi, Banda, Jalaun, Hamirpur and Lalitpur district 635.30, 954.76, 216.41, 117.62 and 105.26 man days had been generated respectively. Details of employment generation have been given in Table.

**Table 8:** Total mandays generated from collection of minor forest produces by mates and Assemblers

S. No.	Name of the District	Mates (No. of man days)	Assemblers (No. of man days)
1.	Jhansi	635.30	586.14
2.	Banda	954.76	116.22
3.	Jalaun	216.41	104.67
4.	Hamirpur	117.62	50.12
5.	Lalitpur	105.26	36.74
Total		2029.35	893.89

Total mandays generated has been 893.89 in Jhansi, Banda, Jalaun, Lalitpur and Hamirpur district 586.14, 116.22, 104.67, 50.12, and 36.74 manday employment has been generated

respectively. For processing I.M.T. of minor forest produces by mates and Assemblers man Days has been worked out and presented in table-8

**Table 9:** Man Days required for processing I.M.T. of minor forest produces by mate and Assemblers

S. No.	Name of the district	Mates (No. of (Man Days)	Assemblers (No. of Man Days)
1.	Jhansi	0.98	0.56
2.	Banda.	1.59	1.62
3.	Jalaun	0.95	0.51

4.	Lalitpur	1.41	0.54
5.	Hamirpur	1.12	0.46
Total		6.05	3.69

On an average in the five district 6.05 mQ11days required for processing one M.T. of minor forest produce. In Jhansi, Banda, Jalaun, Hamirpur and Lalitpur District 0.98, 1.59, 0.95, 1.41 and 1.12 man days respectively are required for processing of minor forest produces.

Similarly, for assemblers for processing I.M. T. of minor forest produce 3.69M.T. Man Days are required. In Jhansi, Banda, Jalaun, Hamirpur and Lalitpur district 0.56, 1.62, 0.51, 0.54 and 0.46 Man Days required respectively.

**Table 10:** Collection and Storage of Tendu leaves in Bundelkhand and Region (2007-08)

Year	Area	Production	(In standard Bags)
2002-03	Jhansi	15.810	
	Banda	21540.124	
	Jalaun	18217.616	
	Hamirpur	14120.790	
	Lalitpur	11240.834	
2003-04	Jhansi	21165.740	101209.174
	Banda	24690.116	
	Jalaun	21614.210	
	Hamirpur	24740.362	
	Lalitpur	18970.632	
2004-05	Jhansi	21162.634	1138541.360
	Banda	27264.163	
	Jalaun	15169.726	
	Hamirpur	18746.432	
	Lalitpur	19624.262	101967.2]5
2005-06	Jhansi	10162.841	93278.768
	Banda	12742.162	
	Jalaun	27164.452	
	Hamirpur	24626.922	
	Lalitpur	18142.321	
2006-07	Jhansi	24162.741	101998.364
	Banda	18427.621	
	Jalaun	21946.216	
	Hamirpur	17199.362	
	Lalitpur	20262.424	
2007-08	Jhansi	11262.410	
	Banda	14613.762	
	Jalaun	16423.516	
	Hamirpur	14927.627	
	Lalitpur	23432.382	80659.697
Total			582854.478

**Source:** The D.P. State Forest Development Corporation

**Note:** Bundal = 50 Leaves

1000 Bundal = 1 Standard Bag

Besides there is also a heavy loss of revenue from Tendu leaves in this region due to illegal Trade by Middlemen. It is evident from the fact that during this period Rs. were realized as fines for illegal Trade of Tendu leaves.

### Conclusion

All these facts present a dismal picture in the collection, storage and marketing of valuable forest produce in the Bundelkhand region. To is evident Hat efficient tapping of valuable forest produce will not argument the revenue from forest produce available in this region, but will also provide gainful employment and better income to local tribal's and other weaker section of the society. The main aim of the co-operative societies has been generate employment among the local people by collecting and pooling of minor forest produces. Instead the co-operative societies should have provided remunerative returns depending upon the market price of minor forest produces. The Assemblers as well as mates who have been engaged in collect in and pooling of

Tendu, leaves and sol seeds are mostly from the peasantry class of the tribal areas the proportion of loudness Agricultural Labourers has been less among He assemblers and mates. The analyses indicate that more employment has been created among mates instead of Assemblers who are common people.

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