

Status of medicinal plants in Nepal: Value addition and market development efforts of BDS-MaPS project. (Oral Presentation)

Pradip [Maharjan](#)

Herbs Production & Processing Co.Ltd and BDS-MaPS Project, Nepal

Introduction

The phytodiversity in Nepal, the Central Himalayan region, is very interesting to study, as it is the result of influence of diverse geography, altitude and climate. Breadth of the country varies in between 144 and 240 km in north to south cross section. The length of the country is about 885 km from east to west. It covers an area of about 147, 181 sq. km. The rugged topography ranges between 55m (south-east corner) and 8850m (Everest). It comprises of Tropical (up to 1000m), Subtropical (from 1000 to 2000m), Temperate (between 2000 and 3000m), Sub-alpine (3000-4000m), Alpine (4000-5000m) and Nival zone (above 5000m). Studies show that Nepal is positioned to offer the diversity of 6 phytogeographical provinces, 10 bioclimatic zones, 35 forest types and 75 vegetation types. It comprises of about 6000 species with 300 endemic species of flowering plants within 216 families and 1534 genera. Nearly 750 medicinal and 50 plants of timber value have been recorded.

Objectives

This natural flora has been contributing significantly to the health and cash income of the people of Nepal for decades. These plants are found in the sub-tropical temperate and alpine regions of the country and belongs to the category of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).NTFP corresponds to the substance of plants including herbs, grooming grass, bamboo, rattan and sabai grass due to their historic economic and social values (Kanel and Shrestha). Nepal is a corridor of NTFP resources and possesses a huge economic potential for its future development. In an average US \$ 20-40 per annum/per hh is the earning from NTFPs :MAPs trade in estimated in Nepal.

Methods

Primary value addition at collector's level is initiating with the assistance from government agencies like Department of Plant Resources (DPR), HPPCL, Community Forestry Program and NGOs. A new approach of strengthening all the players in value chain for sustainable utilization and equitable commercialization of NTFPs: MAPS has been initiated by BDS-MaPS Project and now in the full fledge in seven selected districts in Mid-west to West Nepal . Specially, BDS-MaPS project is working with its nine development interventions focused on market driven approach and strengthen the actors of the value chain including the government agencies, INGOs and private industries as well. Significant achievements are visible in 9000 families and western and mid west dev region. It could be replicated in other arts of the country.

Results

Income generation at local level amounting US \$ 90 per household per annum after the intervention of the BDS-MaPS project in seven districts of Nepal.

Conclusion

Market driven approach and strengthening the all players in the forward and backward value chain has been proved as appropriate approach in equitable commercialization and sustainable income generation and utilization of the natural resources of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in Nepal.

Keywords: No words used in Title NTFPs, BDS-MaPS, CFUGs,MFSC,

Selected References

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Presenting Author: Pradip Maharjan, pradeep.maharjan@bdsmaps.org.np
