



RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Entrepreneurship development of tribal women in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh

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SUMMARY : This paper aims to examine and study the entrepreneurship skills of the tribal women involved in NTFP collection and marketing in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh. Bastar district is endowed with dense forest covering 75.54% of the total area with abundant resource of economically important non-timber forest products. 80% NTFPs gatherers are women and out of those 55% women belongs to age group of 18-30 years, and 53% of the women were illiterates in the study area. The average labour days involved in the collection was 134.33 per annum per household and 68.23% women were involved in collection followed by men and children at 19.29% and 12.48% respectively. On an average Rs. 20258.69 per household per annum were generated through the selling of NTFPs, which is majorly contributed by women collectors with 65.62 per cent followed by 23.01 and 11.37 per cent by male and children collectors respectively. The labour employment indicated that 80.85 per cent women were involved in processing of NTFPs and only 19.15 per cent men were contributing them. The contribution of women in marketing of NTFPs in contrarily less and they sell only 27.56 per cent and rest 72.44 per cent are sold by men. The profit margin obtained after processing is 53.79% instead of selling unprocessed is only 44.25%. On an average the highest profit margin after reducing the processing cost gained through Kalmegh with 65.40 per cent followed by Cashew nut, Tamarind, Tikhur, Chironjee and Mahua with 51.26, 44.71, 42.23, 32.75, and 29.79 per cent respectively. Although the scenario looks satisfactory but still there is scope because the producer's share in consumer rupee is very less ranging from 53-54 per cent, which may rise upto 85-95%, if proper guidance and training provided to enhance women's marketing skill to grow their cottage industries and at the same time teaching them time-saving and sustainable methods to harvest NTFPs which also may protect the ecosystem.

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