

# FOREST PRODUCE OF CHHATTISGARH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE OF TENDU LEAVES

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## ABSTRACT

*Forest produce is defined under section 2 (4) of the Indian Forest Act,1927. Its legal definition includes timber, charcoal, catechu, cadou, wood-oil, resin, natural varnish, bark, lac, myrobalans, mahua flowers, (whether found inside or brought from a forest or not), trees and leaves, flowers and fruit, plants (including grass, creepers, reeds and moss), wild animals, skins, tusks, horns, bones, cocoons, silk, honey, wax, other parts or produce of animals and also includes peat, surface soil, rocks and minerals etc, when found inside or brought from a forest, among other things.*

*Chhattisgarh is a 29<sup>th</sup> state of India, located in central-east part of the country. It is a resource rich state. Geographical area under forest of Chhattisgarh is very rich. The recorded forest area in the state is 44.21% of its geographical area. Forest department of Chhattisgarh is the sole custodian of rich forest resource of the state. The purpose of this study is to explore the importance of "Tendu Leaves" used as a prospective forest produce trading in the national as well as international platform. This study will further throw light on various steps taken by Government of Chhattisgarh for encouragement of "Tendu Leaves" trading and marketing. "Tendu plants" also as a forest produce of Chhattisgarh has sound potentiality to flourish as a commercial purpose in current scenario.*

**Keywords:** Forest Produce, Minor Forest Produce, Tendu Leaves, Tendu Plants.

## 1. Introduction

Forest produce can be divided into several categories. From the point of view of usage forest produce can be categorised into the three types – Timber, Non-timber and Minor Minerals. Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are also known as "Minor Forest Produce" (MFP) or "Non- wood forest produce" (NWFP). Chhattisgarh is one of the huge source of minor forest produce in India. The following are the important varieties under minor forest produce in the basis of (collection and trading) according to the Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Co-operative Federation Ltd.:-

- a) Tendu Leaves (Diosporos Melonoxylon).
- b) Gums of Kullu.
- c) Dhawda.
- d) Khair.
- e) Babool.
- f) Sal seeds.
- g) Harra.
- h) Tamarind.
- i) Chironji.
- j) Lac.
- k) Karria lacca.

### Tendu Leaves

Chhattisgarh is a pioneer state of india, producing the best quality “Tendu Leaves” (Diasporas Melonoxylon). Nearly 70% production of the country’s tendu leaves is produced in Chhattisgarh State.Sarguja and Bastar are the main tendu producing area of Chhattisgarh.Good quality tendu leaves is found at Bilaspur,Raipur,Sarguja,Bastar,Kanker etc. In Chhattisgarh the collection season is from 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April to 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June.The collection season starts earlier in the southern part of the state in comparison to northern part of the state. The tendu leaves are used as Beedi(rural form of cigarette) wrappers. Tendu leaves are the most profitable minor wealths of the forest of Chhattisgarh in present scenario.The state forest produce earnings is very much depends on tendu leaves.The following are the year wise details of collection and sale of tendu leaves in the state are as follows :-

The demand of good quality tendu leaves is found not only inside the country but also outside of India –

Year	Collected Quantity (Lakh Standard Bags)	Collection Wages (Rs. Crores)	Sale Value (Rs. Crores)	Average Sale Rate (Rs. per Std. Bag)
2001	16.67	75.53	165.22	1000
2002	19.58	88.92	198.71	1015
2003	18.12	82.18	173.25	956
2004	18.86	84.92	148.50	787
2005	14.92	67.17	135.06	906
2006	14.72	66.31	140.02	951
2007	17.18	85.96	325.59	1895
2008	13.79	82.77	197.61	1434
2009	14.67	95.33	256.41	1748
2010	15.45	108.15	335.30	2170
2011	13.57	108.52	355.31	2619
2012	17.15	188.66	646.90	3772
2013	14.71	176.70	362.13	2461
2014	14.28	171.40	334.75	2345
2015	13.01	156.13	345.50	2656
2016	13.61	204.21	638.89	4693
2017	17.10	307.81	1368.03	8000

The demand of good quality tendu leaves is found not only inside the country but also outside of India –

Date	HS Code	Description	Destination	Port of Loading	Unit	Quantity	Value (INR)	Per Unit (INR)
Nov 22 2016	14049010	BIDI WRAPPER LEAVES (TENDU) BIRI LEAVESPKD IN JUTE BAGS (WE INTEND TO CLAIM REWARDS UNDER MERCHANDISE EXPORTS FROM INDI	Pakistan	Nhava Sheva Sea	KGS	6,000	1,664,080	277
Nov 22 2016	14049010	BEEDI WRAPPER LEAVES (TENDU)	Sri Lanka	Tuticorin Sea	KGS	6,000	2,071,468	345
Nov 19 2016	14049010	BEEDI WRAPPER LEAVES (WHOLE)(TENDU LEAVES) WE INTEND TO CLAIM REWARDS UNDER MERCHANDISE EXPORTS FROM INDIA SCHEME (MEIS)	Sri Lanka	Tuticorin ICD	KGS	3,000	887,186	296
Nov 18 2016	14049010	BEEDI WRAPPER LEAVES (TENDU)	Sri Lanka	Tuticorin Sea	KGS	6,000	1,954,729	326
Nov 18 2016	14049010	BEEDI WRAPPER LEAVES (WHOLE) (TENDU LEAVES) WE INTEND TO CLAIM REWARDS UNDER MEIS	Sri Lanka	Tuticorin Sea	KGS	6,000	1,968,433	328
Nov 17 2016	14049010	BEEDI WRAPPER WHOLE LEAVES (TENDU LEAVES) WE INTEND TO CLAIM REWARDS UNDER MEIS	Sri Lanka	Tuticorin Sea	KGS	2,090	739,069	354
Nov 05 2016	14049010	BEEDI WRAPPER LEAVES (WHOLE)(TENDU LEAVES) WE INTEND TO CLAIM REWARDS UNDER MERCHANDISE EXPORTS FROM INDIA SCHEME (MEIS)	Sri Lanka	Tuticorin ICD	KGS	1,500	385,759	257
Nov 03 2016	14049010	BIDI WRAPPER LEAVES (TENDU) BIRI LEAVESPKD IN JUTE BAGS (WE INTEND TO CLAIM REWARDS UNDER MERCHANDISE EXPORTS FROM INDI	Pakistan	Nhava Sheva Sea	KGS	6,000	1,634,320	272

### Policies of State Govt. Regarding Tendu Leaves Collection

In Chhattisgarh Govt. took a major policy decision in 2004 that instead of selling godowned leaves, sell the green leaves in advance to the purchaser. The collection of leaves and the payment of the collection wages to the pluckers will be done by the “Primary Co-operative Society” only. Green leaves will be handed over at the collection centre to the purchaser appointed in advance of collection. The purchaser will treat the leaves at collection centre, transport and store in his godowns or the godowns of Forest Department/Federation in double lock inside the state.

### Welfare Schemes taken by Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Co-operative Federation Ltd

Minor forest produce (MFP) means the produce forest species in the form of fruits, seeds, leaves, barks, roots, flowers and grasses etc. The State Minor Forest produce co-operative federation Ltd implemented of many socio-economic welfare schemes for the tendu leaves gatherer families like free footwear distribution, scholarship schemes for education of their children, insurance schemes for the members of Tendu Leaves gatherers, distribution of profit from the trade of tendu leaves in the form of differed wages etc.

### Tendupatta Bonus Programme

In Mahasamund district at Bagbahara mini stadium on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017 celebrate a Tandupatta Bonus Programme. In this programme 7 thousand tendupatta collector given 21 crore 39 lack Rs. for bonus. The state govt. has launched the “Tendu leaves Bonus Tyohar” (festival), which took off from December 2 and is slated to end on December 11. Around 14 programmes will be held in different districts and developmental head-quarters within the state.

The Ramam Singh-led Chhattisgarh government would be doing out bonuses worth Rs. 274 crore to tendu leave collectors, located in areas affected by left-to-wing (LWE) extremism in the state. “Green Gold” collection is slated to benefit around 1.4 million tendu leave collectors in Chhattisgarh – a majority of whom reside in areas considered to be a strong hold of Naxal Rebels.

### **Communally Benefits of Tendu and its Fruits**

There are various varieties of this fruit being cultivated, the popular one is the Chinese native, diospyros kaki, widely known as the Japanese Persimmon. Persimmon fruit is the brilliant orange coloured skinned fruit, that share close resemblance with Tomato in appearance, in fact is a berry. It is a low-calorie fruit rich with minerals such as Phosphorous, Calcium and Vitamins including Vitamin A and C.

Persimmon benefits for health :

- Anti Oxidants.
- Macular Degeneration.
- Weight Loss.
- Improves Digestion.
- Energy.
- Cardiovascular Health.
- Cancer.

Persimmon benefits for Skin & Hair:

- Brightness Skin Tone.
- Control Oil Secretion.
- Delays Signs of Ageing.
- Prevents fine lines and wrinkles.
- Promotes healthy hair.

### **2.Suggestions and Conclusion**

- 1) Uses of “Plastic” is banned in state as considered harmful element creating pollution and encourages more and more uses of “dona” and “pattals”(utensils made of leaves). Hence in place of such harmful products like “polithin” or “plastic” which is commercially consummated in a huge amount should be replaced by the most economical and easily available product like “dona” and “pattals”(made of tendu leaves).
- 2) Tendu fruits can also be used in making as a healthy drinks and low calorie food because it is rich with Vitamin A and C, Calcium and Phosphorous. This fruits is also beneficial for skin and hair so it can be used by dermatologists as a beauty products.
- 3) Proper spread of awareness about new developmental programmes/schemes in promoting tendu leave trading among tendu leave collectors/gatherers.
- 4) Encouragement should be given to unemployed women specially in rural areas and ensuring them timely and actual financial benefit is to be provided.

The state forest produce earnings is very much depends on tendu leaves. Trade of tendu leaves increases the chances of employment opportunities specially in the rural areas of the state by providing work when farm based employment is low. Policies and Welfare schemes taken by Chhattisgarh Govt. regarding tendu leave collection and trading have played a major role to reduce poverty, specially in the rural areas of the state.

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