The role of NWFPs in local livelihoods: Balancing access to resources and markets

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Structure of presentation

- Diversity in NWFP production and governance systems
  - Production systems
  - Contribution to local livelihoods
  - Market systems
  - Governance systems
- Originally prepared in relation to NWFP characteristics in tropical countries
- Adapted to European conditions
Non-wood forest products

- A fuzzy concept
- Original terminology
  - Minor forest products
- Although new term still open to interpretation
  - Minor?
  - Forest product?
NWFP: a minor product?

- In respect to their role in forest management
  - In comparison the value of timber and the impact of timber harvesting?
  - In comparison to products recognized in formal forest management plans?

- In respect to their role for local people?
  - Products for subsistence use of forest dwelling people?
  - Products used for income earning during emergencies?
  - Products having a minor contribution to diversified rural incomes?
Diversity in production systems

- Natural forests vs adapted forests
  - Mixed forest gardens
  - Plantations

- Wild species vs domesticated species
Variation in contribution of NWFPs to local household economies (Belcher, Ruiz-Perez and Achdiawan, 2005)
Diverse roles of NWFPs in livelihood strategies

- **Survival strategy**
  - NWFPs as last resort to secure food and prevent destitution

- **Coping strategy**
  - NWFPs providing security under periodic adverse conditions

- **Diversification strategy**
  - NWFPs providing means of supplementing/diversifying agricultural production

- **Accumulation strategy**
  - NWFPs providing means for specialization of household income through manufacturing and trade
Situation in Europe

- Three main types of NWFP producers
  - Formal combination of production and harvesting
    - Forest owners
    - Agroforesters
  - Formal harvesters
    - Concession holders
  - Informal harvesters
    - Recreational harvesting
Categories of NWFPs in Europe

- Mass-produced by forest owner or concessionaire
- Specialized production by forest owner or concessionaire
- Complementary production by forest owner
- Free commercial product collected by external entrepreneur with formal permission of forest owner
- Recreational product collected by visitors
Different types of markets

- Home consumption
- Local market
- (Inter)national market for mass-produced resources
  - Often organized differently than timber markets
- Niche markets
  - For biological and nature products
  - For products of geographic origin
  - For fair-trade products
Relation between marketing system and production system

- **Home consumption**
  - Often open access forest resource for collectors
    - No conscious technical management

- **Niche markets**
  - Complimentary production to other rural/farming activities
    - In modified rural forests and agroforestry systems
  - Specialized production conform certification standards

- **General markets**
  - Concession system focused on sustainable harvesting
  - Specialized production systems (plantations)
Diversity in governance of NWFPs

- NWFP governance: The process of decision-making and implementation of the organisation and regulation of the use of NTFPs
  - Production
  - Trade
Diversity in stakeholders in environmental governance

- **NGO’s**
  - Comanagement (e.g., comanagement/ CBNRM, forests, fisheries, water)

- **State**

- **Community**

- **Market**
  - Private-social partnerships (e.g., payments for ecosystem services, carbon sequestration, ecotourism)

- **International standards**
  - Public-private partnerships (e.g., concessionary arrangements, logging, mining)
Two traditional systems of NWFP governance

- State concession system
  - State and market main stakeholders
  - Focused on bureaucratic control on resource access and state revenue earning
    - Selected ‘high potential’ products

- Locally embedded system
  - Communities main stakeholders
    - Local tenure arrangements for lands and trees
    - Informal trade arrangements
  - Focused on ‘local livelihood’ products
    - Subsistence use
    - Additional income earning
Newly emerging NWFP governance systems

- New forms of state-community interaction in governance of NWFP production and trade
  - Partial devolution state authority to local communities in the form of formal schemes of community forest production and management
  - Strengthening of role community stakeholders by development of producer/trading cooperatives
  - Often NGO assisted

- Increasing international regulation
  - CBD, certification

- New forms of partnerships between local producer and socially-responsive market organisations
General conclusion

- Great diversity in NWFP production systems
  - Gradual transition between NWFP production and horticultural/plantation production systems
  - Often differentiation in governance systems for high-value ‘strategic’ and low-value ‘basic needs’ products

- Two contrasting development options
  - Conservation and sustainable management of natural forests
  - Adaptive management of forested landscapes adjusted to human needs

- Role in local livelihoods depends on two main governance issues
  - Access to resources
  - Access to markets
Conclusion re comparative analysis
European NWFPs

- Which basic parameters to consider?
  - Production systems, marketing systems, governance systems
  - Interactions between major parameters

- Options for classifying European NWFPs
  - Systematic characterization of a range of specific NWFPs in different countries with subsequent cluster analysis of emergent features (CIFOR approach)
  - Identification of major classification models and application in characterizing main product groups in different countries
  - Others?
Relevant European publications


Thank you for your attention