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Abstract: The forest products of less value as termed non-timber forest products (NTFPs) provide subsistence and income to the poor tribal peoples residing nearby forest areas especially during the lean seasons, as these are the source of food, fodder, fruits and medicines for such dependent populations. Therefore, NTFP covers all forest products other than Major Forest Products, which consist of timber, small wood and fuel wood. NTFP vary very considerably in kind as well as in value. They are a source of considerable revenue to the forest departments. In this way collection of NTFPs is a source of cash income, especially because of their increasing commercial importance. Of the total wage employment in forestry sector NTFPs have accounted for more than 70%, thus providing opportunity for self-employment to the forest dwellers. Nearly 60% of all recorded forest product revenues in India are generated by NTFPs, while unofficial estimates indicate the proportion is considerably higher. Most of Indian's 50 million tribal people receive a substantial proportion of their cash and kind income from NTFPs. As the poverty is prevalent in almost all the rural areas of Jharkhand, various NTFPs provide very useful food components as well as source of income to the villagers, which have not been quantified earlier in a systematic way. This research experiment was conducted on two study sites namely Mahilong and Horhap beats under Mahilong Forest Range covering an area of 24109.93 ha. Eight villages were selected for collection of data the basis of 15% sampling intensity. In this way three villages (Jara Toli, Upper Tola and Burhi Bera) from Mahilong Forest Beat and 5 villages (Unnidih, Lali, Dimba Bura, Rarhu Jara, and Burhi Bera) from Horhap Forest Beat. The data collected has indicated following- (i) The population profile has indicated that Berkumba of Mahilong Forest Beat is most populated villages. (ii) The ST population was found resided in 7 villages, whereas ST and SC population were noticed only in three villages (Upper Tola, Berkumba and Unnidih). (iii) The occupational profile has indicated occurrence of four types of profession (agricultural labourers, daily wage labourers, service and business in 50 % of the study villages. However, the agricultural labourers dominated mostly. (iv) Twenty nine (29) plant species were found exploited for NTFP's which included 13 tree, 10 shrub and 6 herbaceous species. (v) The density of Shorea robusta, Clerodendron infortunatum and Phyllanthus urinaria were found highest, (vi) Most preferred species are identified as Shorea robusta (Sal), Clerodendron infortunatum (Croton) and Andrographis paniculata (Kalmegh). (vii) The destructive method of exploitation was found maximum in case of herbaceous species (83%), while its values were 60% and 54% for shrubs and tree species, respectively. The destructive methods included uprooting or cutting of branches, which have more adverse effect on sustained availability of a produce.

Description: Quantitative analysis of NTFPs in Mahilong and Horhap Forest Beats of Ranchi East Forest Division and their sustained management

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