


PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST


Tropical palms, 2010 revision

Palms, belonging to the Arecaceae family, are among the most common plants in tropical countries and provide a vast assortment of products ranging from food to construction materials, fibre and fuel. Tropical palms, originally published in 1998 as the tenth volume in FAO’s NWFP series, has been updated in 2010 to include the most recent information and developments regarding the conservation status and use of various tropical palm species. It describes the many uses of the products derived from palms and provides updated references and sources of additional information. Palm products are considered both at the subsistence and commercial levels. Using this publication, readers will be able to assess the role of palms and their products within forest management, reforestation, agriculture and nature conservation activities.

The publication in its revised version is only available in an electronic format; it can be accessed at www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1590e/i1590e00.htm

Copies of the original 1998 version can be purchased from FAO’s Sales and Marketing Group at publications-sales@fao.org/

Pipeline publications

A new title – Fruit trees and useful plants in Amazonian life – will shortly be added to FAO’s NWFP series. It will be a richly illustrated joint publication of FAO and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

OTHER RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Edible forest insects. Humans bite back!

Disgusting or delicious? The idea of eating insects nearly always brings about an immediate reaction. While some people find the very thought of eating a beetle or other insect revolting, others smile and smack their lips, perhaps recalling the roasted grubs their mothers prepared as childhood treats or their favourite deep-fried grasshopper snack that accompanied drinks with friends.

Humans have been eating insects for millennia and, even today, the practice remains far more widespread than is generally believed. Although modern society has largely shunned insects from the dinner table, entomophagy – the practice of eating insects – is getting renewed attention from nutritionists, food security experts, environmentalists and rural development specialists.

Based on contributions from some of the world’s leading experts on entomophagy, this publication highlights the potential of edible forest insects as a current and future food source, documents their contribution to rural livelihoods and highlights important linkages between edible forest insects and forest management.

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(Photographs from this publication have been used to illustrate the back cover of this issue of Non-Wood News. Please also see pages 4,6–7,8 for extracts.)

If a man empties his purse into his head no one can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest. Benjamin Franklin

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