

### FAO'S NWFP HOME PAGE

Our Web site is gradually being updated and new features added. We invite you to visit:

- the "Reader's Research" page, which includes new articles on *Prunus africana*, Cameroon honey and many more ([www.fao.org/forestry/site/35667/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/35667/en))
- the updated "Other NWFP links" ([www.fao.org/forestry/site/12979/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/12979/en))
- our ever-expanding "NWFP bibliography" page ([www.fao.org/forestry/site/13467/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/13467/en))

Please help us make this a rich resource by sending us (non-wood-news@fao.org) your NWFP Web sites, citations of any publications that we are missing, as well as any research that you would like to share.

[www.fao.org/forestry/site/6367/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/6367/en)



### BioAssess – The Biodiversity Assessment Tools Project

The Biodiversity Assessment Tools Project is developing a tool box for assessing the impacts of policies on biodiversity in Europe. In addition, the project is measuring the impact of land-use change on biodiversity across Europe's biogeographic regions.

[www.nbu.ac.uk/bioassess/](http://www.nbu.ac.uk/bioassess/)

### Blogs

*Blogging underutilized species*

This is an information exchange tool that complements the Global Facilitation Unit (GFU) for Underutilized Species portal. We hope this will stimulate further thought, learning and discussion. A link can be found from GFU's home page.

[www.underutilized-species.org](http://www.underutilized-species.org)

### World bamboo blogspot

[world-bamboo.blogspot.com/](http://world-bamboo.blogspot.com/)

### Cropwatch

Cropwatch is an independent watchdog for endangered and vulnerable natural aromatic products used in the aroma (perfumes, flavours, aromatherapy, cosmetics), herbal, traditional medicine and phytochemical industries. Information provided to Cropwatch is forwarded by a number of academics, researchers, industry professionals, trade and ethnic peoples, all of whom have primary concerns for the environment.

[www.cropwatch.org/index.htm](http://www.cropwatch.org/index.htm)

### Databases

*The Eco-Index*

The Eco-Index, an online database of conservation projects in the Americas created by the Rainforest Alliance, now features more than 1 000 projects in English and Spanish. It has grown steadily since it was launched in January 2001 with 70 projects. The projects in the database now represent the work of more than 700 NGOs, research institutions and government ministries in the Americas. Project profiles outline contact information, summaries, objectives, funders, budget, accomplishments, lessons learned, methodology, links and reports.

The Eco-Index also offers a variety of other resources to conservation researchers. Users can check out a bimonthly bulletin called the Eco-Exchange about environmental issues and success stories in the Americas and read interviews with conservation leaders and field staff. Users can also subscribe to a monthly e-newsletter in English or Spanish that lists new projects that have been added to the Eco-Index. An average of 20 projects are added or updated on the Eco-Index each month.

The Eco-Index is also home to the Eco-Index of Sustainable Tourism ([www.eco-index.org/tourism](http://www.eco-index.org/tourism)), a searchable database of sustainable tourism operations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[www.eco-index.org](http://www.eco-index.org)

*(Please see page 35 for an Eco-Index report of a maya nut project.)*

### ForestHarvest – NTFP in Scotland, United Kingdom

[www.itto.or.jp/live/index.jsp](http://www.itto.or.jp/live/index.jsp)

### Khadi and Village Industries Commission of India

[www.forestharvest.org.uk/home.htm](http://www.forestharvest.org.uk/home.htm)



### Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

The new GBIF data portal is an Internet gateway to more than 130 million data records provided by 200-plus institutions scattered over more than 30 countries around the world.

<http://data.gbif.org>

### Learning for Sustainability (Lfs)

This Web site aims to provide a practical resource for proponents of multistakeholder learning processes. It recognizes that social learning is an ongoing process that underpins health and other sustainable development initiatives, rather than an outcome to be achieved.

As an international guide to online resources, this Web site is designed for government and agency staff, NGOs, researchers and other community leaders working in peace, community development, public health, forestry, catchment and natural resource management. It acts as a gathering point for resources that have been developed in these separate sectors, and supports the sharing of ideas across sectors.

The new site will replace the NRM-changelinks site that has provided links in this area since 1998. Feedback on this new site is welcomed. If you have particular guides on the Internet that you find useful

### NWFP-DIGEST-L

The Digest is a free monthly e-bulletin produced by FAO's NWFP Programme and covers all aspects of non-wood forest products. Past issues can be found on FAO's NWFP home page at [www.fao.org/forestry/site/12980/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/12980/en).

You can take part in contributing to the continued success of this newsletter by sharing with the NWFP community any news that you may have regarding research, events, publications and projects. Kindly send such information to [NWFP-Digest-L@mailserv.fao.org](mailto:NWFP-Digest-L@mailserv.fao.org).

To subscribe: either by sending an e-mail to: [mailserv@mailserv.fao.org](mailto:mailserv@mailserv.fao.org), with the message: subscribe NWFP-Digest-L; or through the NWFP Programme's home page at [www.fao.org/forestry/site/12980/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/12980/en)

in practice please suggest them as a future resource to add and share with others.  
<http://learningforsustainability.net>

**Mapping the changing forests of Africa**  
[http://nasadaacs.eos.nasa.gov/articles/2006/2006\\_africa.html](http://nasadaacs.eos.nasa.gov/articles/2006/2006_africa.html)

**Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC)**  
[www.ghcc.msfc.nasa.gov/corredor/corredor.html](http://www.ghcc.msfc.nasa.gov/corredor/corredor.html)

#### New Euroforest portal

The European Forest Institute (EFI) has launched this new information service. The portal aims to meet demands for better access to current information on European forests and forestry in an easily

accessible and user-friendly form. It also contains a news section and a metadatabase of Web resources – Web pages of organizations, networks, information providers, databases and selected major reports.  
<http://forestportal.efi.int/>

#### Rain forest educational resource

Mongabay.com, a leading tropical rain forest information Web site, has now made available a rain forest educational resource in 19 languages.

The site explains what constitutes a tropical rain forest, why they are important, why they are threatened and how they can be saved.  
<http://world.mongabay.com/>

**The Green Corridor Project**  
[www.huegreencorridor.org](http://www.huegreencorridor.org)  
**Village soap makers**  
<http://laurapel.com/index.htm>

#### Yummy bugs

[www.sciencenews.org/articles/20071006/safari.asp](http://www.sciencenews.org/articles/20071006/safari.asp) ♣

He has half the deed done who has made a beginning.

Horace

## OBITUARY



#### CHERUKAT CHANDRASEKHARAN (1933–2007)

Dr C. Chandrasekharan, founder and first editor of *Non-Wood News*, passed away on 11 September 2007, leaving an imprint in professional forestry spanning more than 50 years.

Although he retired from FAO in 1995, Chandra (as he was affectionately known to his friends and colleagues) always kept in contact with our NWFP Programme – ever willing to offer advice and support. He was enthusiastic about our recent idea of creating a new feature – the guest article – and was delighted to be its first contributing author, presenting a

stimulating article in the last issue of *Non-Wood News* (15).

Chandra's career is a remarkable example of hard work and commitment as he moved up the professional ladder in India (his home country), occupying various positions and dealing with a wide array of issues. His career in FAO began in 1975 at the Regional Office in Bangkok where he worked as the Regional Forestry Economist and where he played a leading role in developing its forestry programme. He realized the significance of information exchange and was responsible for starting *Forest News*, which eventually was developed as the *Tiger Paper*. His subsequent assignments with FAO included: Senior Forestry Planning Officer at FAO headquarters; Team Leader of the FAO/World Bank Project in Indonesia; Forestry Institution Specialist in Bangladesh; and, eventually, Chief of the Non-Wood Forest Products and Energy Branch in the Forestry Department at FAO headquarters in Rome, a post he held until his retirement in 1995.

Even when retired from FAO, Chandra's professional involvement in forestry probably increased and his

advice and expertise were much sought after by organizations such as ITTO, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Ford Foundation, CIFOR, WWF and IDRC. Notwithstanding his ill health, he maintained his professional interest and commitment. Even a few days before his end, he was coordinating the electronic discussion on science and technology development in the NWFP sector.

Bringing NWFPs to the forefront of the forestry agenda was one of his significant achievements. He was the architect of *Non-Wood News*, which he launched in 1993 and which has since become a leading source of information on NWFPs and a means of networking among those interested in the subject.

As a person, Chandra was known for his soft-spoken approach and for his ability to motivate and encourage coworkers. He was also a true gentleman and his generosity and encouragement will be missed by many, including all his friends here at FAO's NWFP Programme.

When a roll call of outstanding foresters in the world is taken, Chandra will be in the forefront.