

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NON-WOOD NEWS

A strong characteristic of *Non-Wood News* is that it is open to contributions from readers. Should you have any interesting material on any aspect of NWFPs that could be of benefit to all our readers, please do not hesitate to submit it. Articles are welcomed in English, French and Spanish and should be between 200 and 500 words.

Networking is an important aspect of our work and, consequently, each article should be accompanied by a complete mailing address/e-mail; this will enable readers to make contact should they require further information.

The deadline for contributions for *Non-Wood News 18* is 31 October 2008.

For more information, please contact:
Tina Etherington at the address on the front page or by e-mail to non-wood-news@fao.org

Cherukat Chandrasekharan

I read the obituary of Dr Cherukat Chandrasekharan published in the last issue of *Non-Wood News*. The comment "notwithstanding his ill health, he maintained his professional interest and commitment" touched me very much, since I am a beneficiary of his said attitude. He was kind enough to me to write the foreword of our recently released book *Medicinal plant resources of Kerala – towards harnessing its potential*, in spite of his illness.

(P.J. Matthew, Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, 695562 Kerala, India.)

Request for information: foliage

I was wondering if there is any information available on the environmental impact of pistache harvesting for foliage in woods along the Mediterranean basin? As a forester, I would not be happy with the very crude way in which I observed foliage being removed; it is like cutting out olive tree branches just to get olives. However, it is a very good foliage product and would be of interest to United Kingdom customers, provided there is traceability and no damage to nature.

Sustainability is rightly becoming a big issue around NWFPs – especially foliage harvesting. Many of our customers seek a

harvesting or sourcing plan that clearly shows nature is not diminished. This will need to be supported/signed off by competent experts.

The fair trade brand appears to be inadequate. State agencies differ throughout the world in attitude, varying from a total ban which leads to illegal/uncontrolled harvesting to zero control.

I believe the Canadian Government has brought in a licensing system whereby contractors engaged in harvesting species such as salal from the forests must undergo a training programme and are allocated specific areas. This is perhaps the correct way as it enlightens contractors to the fact that sustainable harvesting is in their interests as much as it is to everyone else.

We are very interested in aromatic foliages – both tropical and temperate and would like to make contact with agencies/persons – especially from Africa.

There is huge potential to develop this sector in a sustainable manner provided proper research is done in terms of management.

(Jim Costello, forestfoliage@eircom.net)

Comments received

I have received the two *Non-Wood News* of July 2007 and January 2008. I have not known before that there is such a very good NWFP bulletin, I am very happy and feel honoured to receive them. NWFPs, especially in tropical rain forests, are much bigger than WFPs. For the case of Indonesia, where most of the forests are degraded, those NWFPs are our most possible hope to sustain the forests and their economy.

(Reader in Indonesia)

I am very grateful for your magazine that you are sending me for many years now. It makes very good reading material and has many ideas that are simple and easy adaptable. I share the magazine with friends and we discuss and put into practice a number of ideas over the years. Thank you again!

(Reader from the United Republic of Tanzania)

Also, we found your bulletin very informative and newsworthy.

(Reader from Singapore)

I find the bulletin excellent.

(Reader from Ireland)

Non-Wood News – fantastic as ever! Just a brief note to say congratulations on another great issue of *Non-Wood News*. As ever, it's packed full of loads of interesting and useful

information on a wide variety of NWFPs and related issues. The layout makes it a pleasure to read through the wealth of information presented. I can imagine what a huge amount of work this has been, and wanted to say thanks very much, it's highly appreciated!

(Reader in the United Kingdom)

I enjoyed reading it and I am looking forward to receiving further issues.

(Reader in Germany)

Non-Wood News is a valuable source of information for our staff.

(University librarian in the Philippines)

... *Non-Wood News* which I receive regularly and read from cover to cover.

(Reader from the United States)

You are doing a great work and I would like to share it also with our colleagues in the region working on NTFPs.

(Reader in the Lao People's Democratic Republic)

I don't know how you keep track of all the stuff that you manage to jam into each issue but we keep these around our lab. and they get read by students and visitors and certainly at the end of the day are more practical use than an awful lot of expensive scientific research that is supposed to be top drawer but is frankly too inaccessible.

(Reader in Hawaii)

I read the January 2008 issue of *Non-Wood News*. It is such a fascinating magazine. I was much absorbed reading fascinating stories of people from different countries of the world, including my own country, when they wrote elucidating how they utilize NWFPs to (a) build their homes; (b) supplement their diets; (c) boost their economic status; (d) try to heal patients with most difficult diseases to treat such as HIV/AIDS.

(Reader from Malawi)

Thank you very much for the newsletter! ... I enjoy looking through the articles. It's an amazingly useful source of information ...

(Reader in the United Kingdom)

I've just discovered your organization via an agroforestry Web site. Please put this library on your mailing list to receive the *Non-Wood News* magazine. It appears to fit a niche that we have never filled in our collection of periodicals. Thank you very much!

(Librarian, United States) ♣

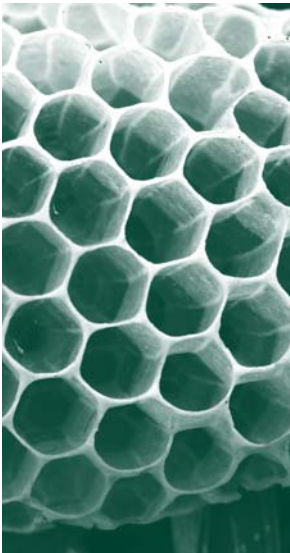
Bees and forest livelihoods



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Beekeeping is a sustainable way for local people around the world to generate income from forests. Beekeepers may have many hives distributed throughout the forest or alternatively they may harvest honey from wild nests of bees. Honey and beeswax are the main products harvested from bees. Honey is a source of high-carbohydrate food, adding nutritional variety to human diets; in many countries, it is regarded more as a medicine or special tonic rather than as an every-day food. Honey and beeswax can be used in the manufacture of many secondary products, such as honey wine or beer, sweets, soaps, cosmetics, candles and a multitude of other value-added products.