

Andhra Pradesh:

Reports from the field on NTFP collection and trade

Studies were carried out in diverse locations of the state to find out implementation of policy as well as to be aware of NTFP availability and trade situation in the interior areas. The studies were conducted in Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts in northeast AP, Mahbubnagar in central west and Chittoor and Cuddapah in south part of the state.

North East AP

Table: Basic information on the villages studied

Village Name	Vankachinta	Kumarthom	Yerakapuram	Siddivaripalem
Panchayat	Modhapalli	Vantalamamidi	Pedamallapurami	
Beat	Minumuluru	V. Madugula	Anantharam	
No. of families living in the village	25 (tribal) families	36 (tribal) families	95 families	87 families
No. of families depending on NTFP collection	25 families	36 families	35 families	63 families
Name of the Sandy	Vantalamamidi - (5 Km From the village)		Pedamallapuram - (3 kms. From the village)	
GCC Depot	Vantalamamidi		Pedamallapuram	
GCC Branch &	Paderu (20 kms. From the village)		Rampachodavaram	

Division office				
Name of the NTFP available for the villagers from the adjacent forest:	Tamarind, Adda leaves, Gall-nut (Chebulic myrobalan), Amla, Honey, Bamboo, Boosipikkalu, Kakkuthikayalu, Marking nut, Hill brooms	Tamarind, Adda leaves, Gall-nut (Chebulic myrobalan), Amla, Honey, Bamboo, Kakkuthikayalu, Marking nut, Hill brooms, Gum Karia, Seethaphal, Cleaning Nut, Ramaphal, Kagu pikkalu	Tamarind (not fruits), Paalateega, Gall-nut (Chebulic myrobalan), Amla, Honey, Saop nut, Marking nut, Brooms, Gum Karia, Seethaphal, Cleaning Nut, Honey-wax, Nuxvomica	Tamarind (not fruits), Paalateega, Gall-nut (Chebulic myrobalan), Amla, Honey, Saop nut, Marking nut, Brooms, Gum Karia, Seethaphal, Cleaning Nut, Honey-wax, Bamboo
Other Details	District, Division and circle - Visakhapatnam, Mandal - Paderu, Section - Madugula, Range - Chodavaram, Block - Sankaram,		District - East Godavari, Division - Kakinada, Circle - Rajahmundry, Mandal - Sankavaram, Section - Rowthulapudi, Range - Tuni, Block - Anantharam	

East Godavari district

Forest coverage in East Godavari District is roughly 30% of the geographical area. It has one forest division and 9 ranges. Two wild life sanctuaries - Koringa and Papikonda are located in the district that is equally rich in agriculture and industries. Bhadrachalam Paper mills and plywood industries are some of the forest-based industries that become strong stakeholders in the district with the forest dependent communities. Being part of the sub plan area, tribal communities in the villages studied do not receive any benefits like their counterpart in the scheduled area under ITDA projects. The primary occupation of these communities is agriculture labour and rearing of cattle.

Yerakapuram

One third of the families living in the village depend on NTFP for part of their livelihood. Following table gives the details of NTFP dependency of the village. Tamarind, Palateega, Honey, Marking nut, Seethaphal and Soap nut are the most important NTFP in terms of number of families dependent. In terms of economic return to the families per week the produces in decreasing order of importance are - Seethaphal, Honey, Palateega, Tamarind, and Soap nut. While GCC has monopoly rights over procurement in all other produces, Seethaphal can be sold to the private traders. However as can be observed, people sell even the monopoly items to private traders as well as to GCC due to various reasons. Some of the items procured by private traders are later sold to GCC. There are 2 categories of items that are exclusively sold to GCC by the primary gatherers - items like Guma Karaya that has a very limited buyers and items like Galnut that are low valued and are not procured by traders as the market is depressed and uncertain.

Table: Details of NTFP collection and trade in the village

NTFP	No. of families collected	Weekly Collection / Family (in KG)		Selling to		Price (Rs. / Kg.)	Total (Rs.) *
		Min	Max	GCC	Private		
Tamarind	15	30 baskets	35 baskets	No	Yes	100 basket	3000
Paalateega	12	40 bundles	45 bundles	No	Yes	80 bundle	3200
Gal Nut	10	400	450	Yes	No	2	800
Amla	10	300	350	No	Yes	3.5	1050
Gum Karia	07	14	18	Yes	No	100 avg.	1400
Honey	16	80	90	Yes	Yes	40	3200
Marking Nut	13	130	150	Yes	No	2	260
Brooms	06	10 bundles	12 bundles	No	Yes	50	500
Honey wax	08	16	20	Yes	Yes	55	880
Nuxvomica	10	30	35	Yes	No	8	240
Seethaphal	20	40 baskets	50 baskets	No	Yes	100	4000
Soap Nut	11	440	450	No	Yes	5	2200

Cleaning Nut	05	35	45	Yes	No	8	280
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* Total amount calculated as per minimum collection of NTFP during a week.

Siddivaripalem

The number and proportion of families dependent on NTFP are higher in this village. It can also be seen from the following table that average per family returns is higher than the previous village. The important produces in this village are - Tamarind, Palateega, Gum Karaya, Brooms, Seethaphal and Soap Nut. In terms of weekly economic returns to primary gatherers during the respective seasons, the produces in decreasing order are - Palateega, Seethaphal, Soap Nut, Gum Karaya and Brooms.

Details of NTFP collection and trade in the village

NTFP	No. of families collected	Weekly Collection / Family (in KG)		Selling to		Price (Rs. / KG)	Total (Rs.) *
		Min	Max	GCC	Private		
Tamarind	20	40 baskets	45 baskets	No	Yes	100/ basket	4000
Paalateega	40	120 bundles	125 bundles	No	Yes	80/ bundle	9600
Gal Nut	15	600	650	Yes	No	2	1200
Amla	10	300	350	No	Yes	3	1050
Gum Karia	12	36	40	Yes	No	100	3600
Honey	12	30	35	Yes	Yes	40	1200
Marking Nut	15	150	185	Yes	No	2	300
Brooms	35	70 bundles	80 bundles	No	Yes	50	3500
Honey wax	02	4	6	Yes	Yes	55	220
Bamboo	10	20 bundles	25 bundles	No	Yes	80	1600
Seethaphal	25	50 baskets	60 baskets	No	Yes	100	5000
Soap Nut	18	720	750	No	Yes	5	3600
Cleaning Nut	08	45	50	Yes	No	8	360

* Total amount calculated as per minimum collection of NTFP during a week.

Visakhapatnam district

More than one third of land in Visakhapatnam is covered under forest. The forests are moist and dry deciduous type. The district is divided into 3 forest divisions and 19 ranges. The district is also rich in the mineral resources and is on a strategic location being by the sea in the east direction. Due to the presence of forest cover and a long chain of hills tourism is an important industry. The city headquarter has a large number of big industries located in it. Thus there are conflicting interests between conservation of forests, tourism, mining, and other industries in the district.

Vankachintha

Vankachintha is one of the tribal villages of Paderu Mandal of Visakhapatnam district. It is about 80 kms from Visakhapatnam towards Paderu. The NTFP particulars of village are mentioned in the following table. Here all the families are dependent on NTFP for contribution to their earnings. However as can be observed weekly collection is much less than the villages in East Godavari district. The forest density also less than the villages studied in East Godavari. Bamboo is a major forest produce in this village that contributes a significant amount of incomes from the forest. This also might be one of the reasons why collection from other NTFP is less. The NTFP of importance in terms of economic returns are - Kakkuthikayulu, Hill Brooms, Honey, and Tamarind. However, it is Adda Leaves, Kakkuthikayulu, Marking Nut and Tamarind on which maximum number of families are dependent. Other noticeable feature is that GCC is much more active in this region as it is procuring many more produces than that in the previous district.

Table: Details of collection and sale of NTFP

NTFP	No. of families Dependent	Weekly Collection/ Family (in KG)		Sale to		Price (Rs. / KG)	Total (Rs.) *
		Min	Max	GCC	Private		
Tamarind	15	100	150	Yes	Yes	6	650
Adda leaves	25	80	120	Yes	Yes	3	280
Gal Nut	10	150	200	Yes	No	2	300

Amla	10	100	120	No	Yes	3	350
Boosipikkalu	10	50	60	Yes	No	8	400
Honey	5	20	30	Yes	Yes	40	800
Marking Nut	15	225	250	Yes	No	2	450
Hill Brooms	5	100 bundles	120 bundles	Yes	Yes	10	1000
Kakkuthikayulu	15	550	600	No	Yes	5	2750
Bamboo (Annual)	25	-	-	Paper Mill	Yes	-	28000

* Total amount calculated as per minimum collection of NTFP during a week.

Kumarthom

Kumarthom is located in Vantalamamidi Panchayat of Paderu Mandal about 90 kms from Visakhapatnam towards Paderu. All the families belong to ST (Konda Dora) and depend on forest and its produces for their livelihood. Here also bamboo is an important produce as it contributes the most in cash income. Though this village is nearby the previous one, collection of NTFP is higher than the former in quantity as well as variety. Though it is Tamarind, Adda leaves and Seethaphal on which all the families are dependent for some extent of their income during their season, in terms of weekly income the produces in decreasing order are - Seethaphal, Ramphal, Kakkuthikayulu, Gum Karaya, and Hill Brooms. The penetration of GCC in the produces over which it has monopoly is similar to the previous village and better than villages in East Godavari.

Table: Details of collection and sale of NTFP

Name of the NTFP	No. of families collected	Weekly collection/ Family (in KG)		Selling to		Price (Rs. / Kg)	Total (Rs.) *
		Min	Max	GCC	Private		
Tamarind	36	100	150	Yes	Yes	6	650

Addaleaves	36	80	120	Yes	Yes	3	280
Gal Nut	10	150	200	Yes	No	2	300
Amla	6	100	120	No	Yes	3	350
Gum Karaya	6	12	15	Yes	No	100	1200
Honey	4	20	30	Yes	Yes	40	800
Marking Nut	5	60	75	Yes	No	2	120
Hill Brooms	5	100 bundle	120 bundle	Yes	Yes	10	1000
Kakkuthikayulu	10	400	450	No	Yes	5	2000
Bamboo (annual)	36	--	--	Paper Mill	Yes	--	40000
Seethaphal	20	40 baskets	50 baskets	No	Yes	100	4000
Ramaphal	6	10 baskets	12 baskets	No	Yes	200	2000
Cleaning Nut	5	50	60	Yes	No	8	400
Kagupikkalu	10	50	70	Yes	No	8	400

* Total amount calculated as per minimum collection of NTFP during a week.

Central West AP

Mahabubnagar district

The study villages in the district are located in Rajiv Gandhi Wild Life Sanctuary and Nargarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR). The NSTR is spread out in 4500 Sq KM area. The final notification for the Sanctuary was issued in 1997. But there are certain special rights and privileges provided to the Chenchu community over forest and forest products, at the time of settlements of reserved forests and it continues to be practised. The forests in the region are dry deciduous. Teak, the major specie is dwindling. Apart from major timber trees, there are about 120 species of plants (Kovel Foundation, 2002) distributed in this area.

Rayaletipenta

Rayaletipenta is situated in Vatevaripalli Panchayat of Amrabad Mandal in Mahbubnagar district. It is about 2 km walk between Mananur and Vatevaripalli on Hyderabad - Srisailam road. The nearest big market place are Padira and Achampet. The village is surrounded by thick forest from all the sides. The village is a all tribal one resided by 11 Chenchu families. There are sixteen NTFP collectors in the village, of which six are women. The total agriculture land in the village is approximately 14 acres that grow Jowar, Green Gram and Custard. The average income from agriculture is about two thousand rupees during a good rainy season.

NTFP Collected by the Chenchus of Rayaletipenta - Tapsi Gum, Broom sticks, Musti Ginjalu, Budipala Gaddalu, Beedi Leaf, Honey, Ippa Flower and Seed, Morli, Saraswathi, Eagi, Karivepaku, Sarpagandhi, Chenchu gadalu, Usiri, Green Grass, Bamboo, Podaparthi, Maredu, Billa Ganneru, Kalabanda, Kraka, Aswagandha.

Of the twenty-four NTFP collected, nine forms the major revenue providers (see Table 2). This includes the nationalized product beedi leaf, which earns about fifteen thousand rupees per family for a period of one month. Whereas the other forest products like usiri, kalabanda, sarpagandhi, karivepaku, bamboo basket, billa ganeru, saraswathi aku, aswagandha, and adavi nabhi are collected in a week time. The collection of these items is low due to distorted market, low availability and long distances and legal restrictions.

Bamboo, another nationalized product is also a wide spread. But harvesting of bamboo is banned. The restriction is due to the legal status of the forest (Wild life Sanctuary and direction of the Supreme Court). The AP FD represented to the apex court and got sanction for collection of beedi leaf only in the year 1998. Though medicinal plants in this region are widely distributed, the marketing opportunities are limited. The reasons are low procurement by GCC and not a high priority for traders.

The table below provides the income realized by the Chenchu tribes from the nine major NTFP items. Beedi leaf is the most important item among all the forest produces available in the region that contributes substantially to the income of the whole village. The other important produces are - Musti Ginjalu, Broom Sticks and Tapsi Gum. Apart from FD that procures Beedi Leaf, all other produces are sold at GCC stores. Some of the produces are sold to the private

traders also. This year the village SHG has got together to collect one forest produce i.e. Broom stick and try to market it themselves with help of an NGO.

Table: Details of collection and sale of NTFP

NTFP species	Product	Quantity (KG)	No. of Families	Price (Rs. /KG)	Annual income realized (Rs.)
Tapsi	Gum	(G2) 125	All	90	11250
Broom sticks	Grass	4900	All	3	14700
Musti Ginjalu	Seed	1510	All	10	15100
Budipala Gaddalu	Tuber	405	All	20	8100
Beedi Leaf	Leaf	660	All	75	49500
Honey		107	03	45	4815
Eppa Puvvu	Flower	405	03	5	2025
Eppa Paluku	Seed	130	03	9	1170
Morli Paluku	Seed	100	02	9	900
					107560

The nearest GPCMS depot is 6 km away from the village at Vattavarlappally. The gums are sold to GPCMS as the produce has a very limited market outside. The personnel at the depot make the grading and more often the collectors are paid the second grade price for the product. According to collectors, there is usually a 10% reduction in weight at GCC depot then when weighed in the village.

However most of the other produces find an alternative market in the form of private traders. Though the prices may be higher or lower than the GCC prices, primary collectors have other reasons to sell it to the traders - advance loans being the prominent the causes. The traders take the produces from the doorstep of the villagers. The GCC depots also open for a limited time in a week. The traders prefer the produces that have a ready made market outside -

Mahua, Honey and Broom sticks. In case of Broomsticks it has been seen that gatherers get more price in the shandies than they would have got from GCC. The traders at Vattavarlapally, Mannanur, Srisailam, Sunnipenta, Achampet, and Domalapenta are the ones who buy produces in this region.

This village being part of NSTR, Chenchus enjoy special rights as per a notification in 1932, whereby they are able to collect NTFP. Similarly, the FD got a special permission from the Supreme Court to collect BL from the region as no collection could be allowed when it was declared as a Tiger Reserve.

Kudichintalabailu & Sarlapalli

Kudichintalabailu is located in Amrabad mandal of Mahabubnagar district of AP. The hamlet is heterogeneous with majority of the households belonging to Chenchus tribe. Total number of families is 30 with a population of 200. Of this 20 belong to Chenchu community and remaining 10 to BC Community. The villagers have agriculture lands and average land holding is 3 acres per family. The Chenchu families collect most of the forest products. One family in the village undertakes local trade of NTFP. The second village is Sarlapally in the same Mandal and district that has 500 families with 2000 population. Out of this 53 belonging to Chenchu community with a population of 200 are staying in a hamlet.

In both the villages Chenchus are main collectors of NTFP and some BC families also are involved in collection of NTFP. The major produces are honey and broom sticks. Usually the lower income group families collect NTFP in agricultural lean seasons and drought years. NTFP collection largely is a non-remunerative activity and is a supplementary income to most in these villages except the Chenchu Community.

The following table gives the consolidated figures of income of a HH from NTFP. As can be observed, an average HH earns about Rs. 6000 from NTFP, out of which Tapasi and Kondagogu Gum and Budipalagailu account for 50%. This income is apart from the returns that they have from Beedi Leaf that could not be covered in the study.

Table: Average household income from NTFP

Products	Season	Annual Income
Tapasi Gum	Whole year	Rs. 1000/-
Kondagogu Gum	Whole year	Rs. 1000/-
Budipala gadda	Whole year	Rs. 1000/-
Morli, Sarapappu	April - June	Rs. 700/-
Musti Ginjalu	November-December	Rs. 600/-
Soap nuts	April-June	Rs. 500/-
Broom Sticks	January-February	Rs. 500/-
Honey	April- June	Rs. 500/-
Kanuga, Pongam	April- June	Rs. 300/-
		Rs. 6100/-

Traders in both the villages run provisional stores that provide gatherers with essential commodities in lieu of forest produces sold. All non-reserved NTFP having a demand go through this channel. In addition many reserved and monopoly items also enter this channel illegally. The players of NTFP market include collectors, local collection agents and a number of wholesalers and retailers at local, regional and national level. The collectors otherwise have to sell NTFP to GCC for exchange of essential commodities or cash. The nearest GCC depot is at a distance of 8 km from the village. Because of this collectors prefer to sell it to the trader who stays in the village. People also complain that the operation of GCC store is not regular. This gives an opportunity to the private local traders to establish their trade. They also give petty loans and provide essential commodities to the collectors on credit. GCC also fails to reach the targets of demand from the collectors. This in turn affects the tribals. The traders also give money to the collectors for illicit liquor. This makes one to understand the alibis shown to the collector to sell his good. The private traders with a very small investment started petty provisional stores in the hamlet that have minimum basic infrastructure facilities. These traders are migrants from nearby towns of Mannanur, Achampet and Mahabubnagar. They have settled 8 to 10 years back in the hamlets. They belong to backward class and are non-tribals.

South AP

Cuddapah district

Sainagar

Cuddapah is located in the southern part of Andhra Pradesh. It falls in Rayalaseema region of the state. The district has distinction of being home to red sanders, a highly threatened species. Sainagar is situated in Kanapalli panchayat and Chintakammadinne mandal. Total numbers of families in the village are 26, all belonging to Yanadhi tribe and landless. The primary occupation of Yanadhis is collection of forest products. In the year 1996, Vana Samrakshana Samathi (VSS) was formed. Through VSS, activities related to soil moisture conservation, plantation and village development were under taken. Due to protection and restriction on fuel wood smuggling and controlling forest fires, regeneration helped growth of the forest.

The details of NTFP collection profile is given the (Annexure-3). Thirty-one minor forest products are collected by Yanadhis in this area. Tapping of gum is one of the major activities and income realised from sale of gum maximum. The gum is extracted from different five species. Of this the commercial value of gum collected from Tapsi is highest. This is available through out the year. But tapping is mostly distributed from August - March. The availability of gum during summer is low and during monsoon it is avoided due to rains and competition from wild animals, which consume gum oozing out of the tree wound. At an average the number of days spent by the collectors for tapping gum is about seventy days. For tapping, a semi circular cut is made on bark of the tree. Generally tapping is carried out from trees over twelve years old. The gum collected is dried over plastic covers. Then it is carried to the GCC depot at Guvalacheruvu on other side of the hill ranges at a distance of 20 Kms.

Maredu Gaddalu is the 2nd most important item in the village. Maredu Gaddalu is collected from the climber *Aegle marmelos*. It is cut into smaller pieces and dried in sun for over a day. Then it is marketed to GCC as well as to traders. The traders are from Rayachoti. There are about seven private traders involved in this business. The price provided by traders ranged between Rs. 15 - 25 per kg. The traders in turn sell this at Chittor and/or Tirupathi at a price four to five times higher. The storage by the traders is done at Rayachoti it self. Most of this trade is carried on with neither licensing nor legal registration.

Nanari Gaddalu is very specific and unique to this place. This is a root. It is extracted and the four roots are separated and sold. This is used to prepare local soft drink called nanari. It gives relief from tiredness and heat. This is mainly sold to traders.

The other major NTFP sold to the traders are thatch grass, palagaddalu, sarapapu, karakai, bodha, usiri, tamarind, soap nut, eetha fruits, guthi fruits, Chella ginjalu, and musthi ginjalu. The middlemen pay advances for collecting high value items like palagaddalu, maredu gaddallu, musthi ginjalu to the collectors and repay the rest after the produce is handed over to them. The middlemen have linkages with traders as far as in the Kerela and Tamil Nadu for selling these plants.

In this village where NTFP play a crucial role in the livelihoods of the Yanadhi community - of the total income in a family, NTFP contribute about 80%. Five out of the twenty-six families are completely dependent on NTFP collection. The maximum annual income form the NTFP is Rs. 77,000 and minimum is Rs. 1830. The wide variation is explained by the fact of number of eligible members a family has for collecting NTFP. The person who earns the minimum is an old widowed lady, who still engages in NTFP collection.

Table: Details of NTFP collection and trade in Sainagar, Cuddapah

NTFP	Plant Part Extracted	Product	Season of Extraction	Price (Rs./ Kg)	Average Income / Collector Family	Total Value at Village level (Rs.)
Tapsi	Bark -Stem	Gum	Year Long	I Grade - 120, II Grade - 90, III Grade - 60	10580	95200
Erragogu	Bark -Stem	Gum	Year Long	I - 90, II - 40, III 20	7425	96525
Guggilam	Bark-Stem	Gum	Nov - March	20	962	11550
Elamabanka	Bark - Stem	Gum	March - July	90	2080	20800

Musti	Bark - Stem	Gum	Nov - Feb	10	630	8810
Chilla	Seed	Seed	Nov- Feb	5	560	8442
Karakkaya	Kernal / Fruit	Seed	Feb- June	3	420	6290
Errapoliki	Stem / bark	Gum	Nov - March	120, 80, 25	330	3000
Maredigadda	Roots	Roots	Feb - March	18	3730	25920
Sugandhalu	Root	Powder	Dec - Feb	5	20	160
Palagadda	Roots	Roots	Feb - May	60	4620	60030
Palasepugadda	Root	Powder	Year long	25	580	4625
Tirumanubanka	Bark- Stem	Gum	Year long	15	92	645
Nelavemi	Leaf		Dec - Feb	10	575	2300
Bodha	Grass	Thatch roof	Feb - June	100 for cart load	1980	9880
Porakalu	Grass	Broomstick	Nov - May	6 per one small bundle	700	9960
Podapatri	Stem / leaf	Medicinal	Dec - Feb	12	770	3840
Nallamadi chekka	Bark	Medicinal	Year long	20	1360	8150
Usiri	Fruit	Fruit	Nov - March	5	1200	11890
Velaga	Leaf and Bark	Medicine	March - Sep	1	1020	7125
Maredukaya			Feb - march	1	200	600
Sarapappu	Seed	Seed	March	20	2100	25200
ChintaKaya	Fruit	Dry de seeded Fruit	March- May	20	1120	15660

Kunkudu	Fruit	Dry Fruit /	Feb - March	8	1060	11680
Eethapandu	Fruit	Fruit	May - June	3	1017	240
Guthipandu	Fruit and Bark	Fruit and Wood	May - June	3	120	240
Honey		Wax and Honey	Year Long	60	872	6975
Nannarigaddalu	Root	Medicinal, local soft drink	Feb- March	25	2090	12540
Buragabanka	Stem	Gum		125	15330	61400
Karakanda					200	600
Uttiginjalu	Seed	Seed	January	10	3000	3000

Chittoor district

Gopalapuram

Gopalapuram is a hamlet habituated by Yanadhi community. Yanadhis are primitive tribe and are cattle rearers and food gatherers. Twenty years back in an outbreak of fight in the village of Pagadala, Sri Chinna Bathala left and settled in this place. Gradually the number of families in the village increased to fifteen over a decade with a population of about sixty. This village now falls under Poshamvari palli panchayat in Pulicherla mandal of Chittoor district. It is adjacent to the Nagapatla reserve forests of Bhakrapeta range. There are no pucca houses in the village though house pattas are provided. A Vana Sanrakhyana Samiti has been is formed in the year 1999.

Main occupation of the village is collection and sale of forest products. Apart from NTFP, the secondary source of income is wage labour. The average income from sale of NTFP is about 87% and remaining 13% is from the wages. Annual average income per household is about Rs 10300 per family per annum for NTFP and Rs 1350 through wages. The number of days spent in collection of various forest products ranges from a minimum of 25 days to maximum of 200 days. The time spent for processing, grading and storing varies from 20 - 40 days. The

collection of the products is always carried out in groups, generally belonging to the same family.

The families do not have any agricultural land. Tapping of gum is an important economic activity. As per villagers, there are about 3000 gum trees that they have distributed among themselves. The sale of items like gum, broomstick, Soapnut, roots, and tubers are carried on weekly basis. But beedi leaf, thada akulu, amla is sold the very or the next day. The forest products collected are sold to the GCC depot at Pakala, which is about twenty-five kilometres from the village. The external trade of NTFP to middlemen and outsiders is low and negligible.

Table: Income from different NTFP

Name of the Species	Part of the plant marketed	Season	Average Income realised per collector family
Buraga Banka chettu	Gum	November - March	1380
Yerra Polika Banka chettu	Gum	November - March	1650
Maredu	Root	Throughout the year	5400
Neeli	Fruit	January - March	100
Kunkudu	Fruit	February - March	210
Karaka	Fruit / Kernal	February - April	180
Chilla	Seed	January - February	25
Musthi	Seed	November - June	180
Ippa	Seed	December - January	70
Tamarind	Furit	March - April	110
Banda poraka	Grass	November - December	210
Tadakulu	Leaf	November -	90

		January	
	Honey	May - August	2400
Tuniki	Leaf	March - May	475

From the above table it is clear that every collector is realising about Rs 8500 from products of gum and maredu gaddalu. This makes about 80% of the income realized from NTFP collected. Generally multiple collections of products are carried out. A regular and systematic collection is carried out only with respect to gum. Time spent for collection of many products is less than three days except that of of gum, beedi leaf, broomsticks and honey.

Beedi leaf is contracted and the collectors get only the wage. The villagers complain that the contractor often bring people from out side and carry out collection. Though VSS is functioning since 1999, the share on beedi leaf as per the orders issued by the AP Forest Department in the year 1996 and 2002, it is not realized. The reasons quoted are due to the low quality of leaf as compared to northern Telengana districts.

The gatherers of the region also take care while extracting forest produces. This is proved by the following actions -

- During extraction of gum, the tapers disperse insecticide to the extracted portion to restrict the damage caused by termites to the tree trunk. Trees below four years are not counted for extraction. Added to this during the extraction season, manual protection is also done.
- During extraction of maredu tubers, at least two main root systems are left out during cutting of the climber.
- During Soapnut collection care is taken not to make branches cut off or broken.
- In case of musthi seeds only ripe and to a large extent fallen seeds are only collected. Lopping or cutting of branches is a rare feature in this area.

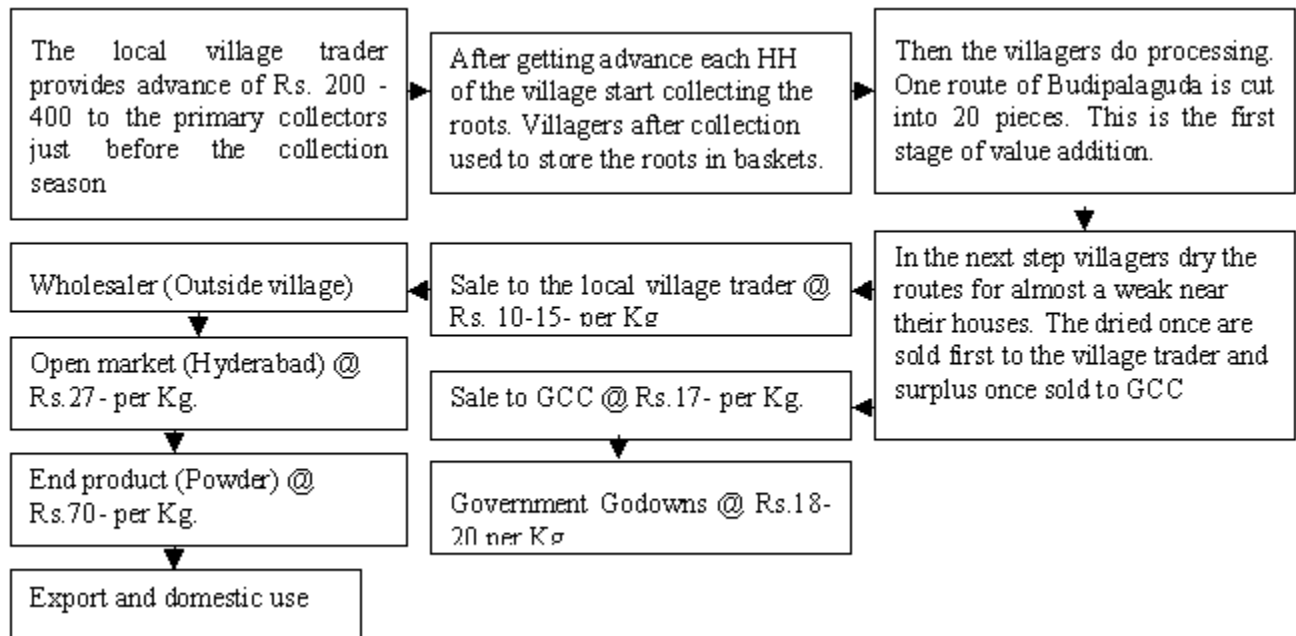
Trade channels of some NTFP

Budipalagada

The root of Budipala is available throughout the year and the collection is spread out according to demand. The best quality roots are available during rainy season. The species is mostly

found in rocky areas. The retailer gives an advance of Rs. 400/- to the collectors. Men and women go in groups for collection. A group usually comprises of 3-4 members. The process of collection involves digging up of roots up to four meters underneath the climber by plucking the root. The root is 2 meters long. Each group collects around 4-5 roots per week.

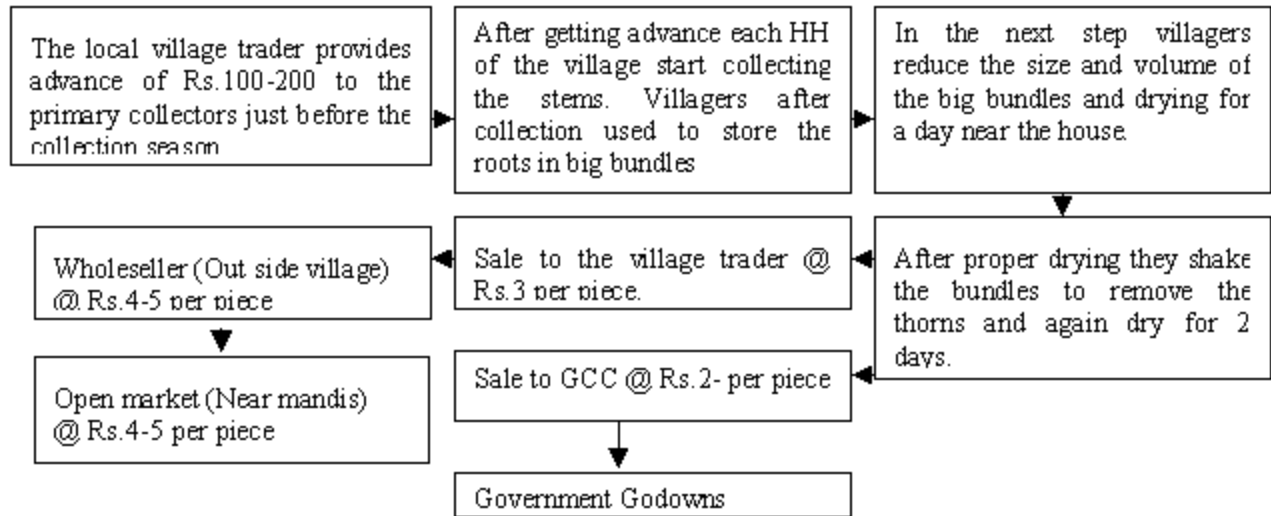
They are shared among the group and usually each household gets approximately 2 kg's of roots. The root is cut into 20 thin pieces. Then, it is stored in a woven /small basket for a night. The next day it is dried in open sun at their houses. The roots are dried for a week before it is sold. It is sold to the trader who stays in the village (retailer) at the rate of Rs 10-15 per Kg. The rate in the open market is Rs 18-20. The trader from the village also collects the roots in about five neighbouring villages. The total gathered stock is packed in gunny bags to sell it the open market. For transportation to open market the local trader gets help of the forest guards at forest check post in Mannanur. This costs about Rs. 10/- per bag. This product has high demand in the open market. The collectors sell the surplus to the GCC depot for Rs.17/- per kg. GCC sends it to the government godowns.



Broomstick

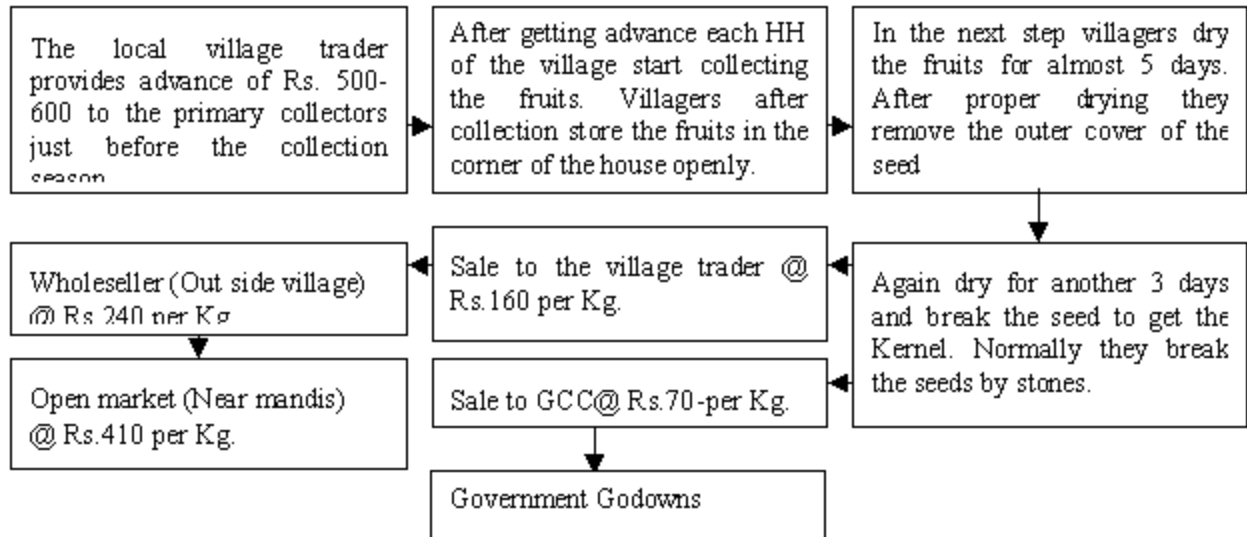
Broom grass is available within a radius of 2 kms from the village and found abundantly. Collection is carried out from November to January (After Diwali festival till Sankranti). The local trader provides an advance to the collectors to the tune of two hundred rupees. The process of collection involves going in a group comprising of women (3-4 members). The upper part of the grass is cut and gathered. This is then bound into bundles of tens. About twenty big bundles are made in a day. At the village the bundles are cleared of all thorns by beating to ground and chopped. Each collector makes around 15 to 20 broomsticks. It is tagged with the rope made out of Neem bark. It is dried in front of their houses for a day. It is followed with thrashing of brooms to clear the thorns. This process takes about four hours. After this again the bundles are dried for four days. After this process the broomsticks are ready for sale.

The sticks are sold initially to the village trader equivalent to the advance amount taken and the rest is sold at the cost of Rs. 3/- for each broomstick to the consequent trader who hails from Mannaur or Achampet. He sells this to the wholesaler / trader at Achampet mandal at Rs 5/- per broomstick. The local trader in a year sells about 15000 broomsticks. The local trader after getting it from the collector again trims the size of the broom. It is later sold to trader outside the village who hails from Achampet. The Achampet trader sells to local shops at the cost of Rs. 8 per broomstick. The consumer buys the broom at the cost of Rs. 10/- to 12/- per broom. Mostly this is used for domestic market and not export. This item is usually not sold to GCC as they pay less than the local village trader or if it is sold outside door -door in the adjacent villages. They sell it at the cost of Rs. 5/- per broomstick.



Chironji

Chironji locally known as morli pallukulu is found at fringe of the forest areas. It is available in the months of April- June. Both men and women are involved in collecting the fruits. The collected seeds are broken and the kernel in the seed is collected and sold. Women do the process of breaking the seed cover. This takes ample time and precaution has to be taken for careful extraction of kernel. The damaged kernel fetches less price. The damaged kernel is purchased by GCC at the cost of Rs. 16 per Kg. In open market the quality kernels are sold at a price of Rs 120 per kg, where as GCC pays Rs. 70/- per kg. So, mostly collectors prefer to sell it to the local trader (villager) who buys for Rs. 40/- to 50/- per half kg and in turn sells to the intermediary trader for Rs. 50/- to 60/- per half kg. The trader in turn sells in the open market for Rs. 60/- to 70/- per half kg. The intermediary trader hails from Mannanur. The Mannanur trader sells it to the traders in Achampet and Mahaboobnagar. The product is both used for domestic and export markets.



Honey

Honey is another item that has great demand in the market. It is collected in the months of April to June. Usually men do the collection. From the combs the honey is poured into bottles, which is brought to the house and stored in an airtight bag. After a day it is boiled and filtered. The filtered honey is then sold. Only ten families are involved in collection from two villages. The village trader purchases for Rs. 60/- per 1 kg bottle. It is sold to the outside village trader for Rs. 70/-per bottle who hails from Mannanur. This in turn is sold at retail / wholesale at Achampet market for Rs 80 per Kg. Some times the Mannanur trader sells the product in Hyderabad at the costs of Rs. 100/- per kg.

Achampet and Lingam Mandal

SERP had constituted a detailed study with regard to NTFP collection and trade practices in Achampet and Lingam Mandals of Mahabubnagar district in 2002. Kovel Foundation, Visakhapatnam, carried out the study. It has come out with certain interesting findings that are very relevant on the subject. All the statistics exclude Beedi Leaf.

The study covered 959 families of the Chenchu tribe spread over 50 villages. out of all the chenchu families covered, 430 families (45%) are dependent on NTFP for some portion of their earnings. Nearly 84% of these 430 families derived 30% or more of their annual earning from NTFP, 10% between 15 - 30% and rest derived less then 15%. Overall, 80% of the income of

these 430 families came from NTFP. These NTFP dependent families remain engaged in NTFP collection and processing activities ranging from 90- 180 days. Of the total 36 NTFP identified, 12 were purchased by GCC, 12 by the traders and there were 19 items that did not find any buyers in the region. (there were items that were purchased by GCC and Traders both)

None of the family collecting NTFP had NTFP ID cards and less than 30% members were members of GPCMS. Most of the others were not even aware of GPCMS membership. Though more than 50% of the families were engaged in collection of gums that formed the most important NTFP in the region, only 7% had Giri Cards. NTFP purchasing entries were not made in most of the Giri Cards. Of the total gum procured by GCC, 12.5% were of Grade 1 variety, 40% grade 2 and the rest grade 3.

Harvesting practices of the major NTFP were also studied. Most of the harvesting practices of NTFP are unscientific and are leading to depletion of NTFP resources. Now the community members have to travel a long distance for getting NTFP that they used to get in the immediate vicinity of the village. This has also resulted in increased migration. What is of concern much more is that GCC is not doing anything noticeable for protection and regeneration of NTFP.

Some of the unscientific harvesting practices are -

- Cutting of branches and trees/ climbers for collection of fruits, leaves and bark
- Immature collection of fruits
- Collection of fruits by picking from the ground
- Collected fruits are laid on black top road for drying and/ or removal of pulp to get seed. Or the fruits are kept in a bamboo basket and then crushed with legs so as to get out pulp followed by thorough washing in the running water.
- The fruits/ seeds are dried on the ground/ road/ cots/ winnowing basket etc.
- The produces are stored in the gunny bags without proper drying.
- The tubers/ roots are collected without leaving anything in the soil.

GCC being a key element in the procurement and trade of forest produces, its operations was looked into and the following concerns emerged -

- The purchasing points / shandy points are not convenient for the collectors as the presence of sales man and timings of the depots are not as per the formers' requirement

- Neither GCC staff have any rapport with the community and nor any community mobilisation effort is made for the same.
- Lack of co-ordination between FD and GCC on forest produces for NTFP collection and the NTFP collectors suffer for the same.
- Awareness activities of GCC, if any are concentrated around Gums, thereby no concerted protection, regeneration or quality improvement activities are undertaken in other produces.
- The collectors are wary of weighment and grading practices of GCC staff. Proper bills are also not issued in case of purchase. 100 grams extra is collected from the primary gatherers on account of driage at the depots and shandy points
- NTFP are rejected on the name of bad quality
- Overall it is felt that the middlemen are playing dominant role in NTFP marketing then GCC