

## **Value addition & marketing of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFPs)**

[Tropical Forest Research Institute](#), Jabalpur conducted a one-day National Conference on “Value addition & marketing of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFPs)” on 16th December, 2021. The purpose of the conference was to provide platform to all researchers, academicians, Forest Department officials, entrepreneurs, NGOs, industrialists and other stakeholders to share their views and experiences on various issues related to NTFPs and medicinal plants in ensuring improved livelihoods of dependent communities.

Dr. G Rajeshwar Rao, ARS, Director TFRI, emphasized on the need of establishing the custom hiring centers on NTFPs which will help in enhancing livelihood of rural communities by providing them facilities of processing and value addition.

Shri Rakesh Chaturvedi, PCCF & HoFF, CG state accentuated the role of CG state MFP Federation in trade and development on NTFPs. He informed the gathering that CG has announced minimum support price for 26 NTFPs and about 126 NTFPs based products have been developed.

Eminent guests Prof. (Dr.) Tanuja Nesari, CEO, NMPB; Shri Deepak Mishra, IFS, Secretary & ADG (Edu & RB) and Shri S.P. Singh, CEO, IFFDC also discussed various issues related to NTFPs.

There were invited talks by distinguished delegates, 34 oral presentations and 43 poster presentations under the five themes – 1) Conservation of NTFPs - RET species, 2) Collection, harvesting, processing and value addition of NTFPs, 3) Resource assessment and augmentation of NTFPs, 4) Quality standardization and certification of NTFPs and 5) NTFPs marketing: Issues and strategies of the Conference.

Shri. M. Srinivasa Rao, APCCF and CEO, National Bamboo Mission was the Chief guest during the valedictory session. He emphasized on the need to augment the need based medicinal and aromatic crops especially Sandalwood. He also welcomed innovative research projects to Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) seeking financial support for the welfare of forest dependent communities.

Dr Hari Om Saxena, organizing secretary of the conference briefed the conference report before the Chief Guest and concluded with extension of vote of thanks.

