

Case Study on NTFP Collection and Marketing

Forest and mountains always play an important role in people's life. Hills as well as the adjacent forest are rich with medicinal plants and herbs. Harida, Bahada, Aamla, Kendu, Tol, Karang, Kusum, Neem, Bhuinneem Rasna, Pakhanbadudi Kanda, Gulmari, Safed gulchi, Lal gulchi, tikhur, Kendu leaves, Siali leaves are some of the medicinal products available in abundance. The communities earn their livelihood by collecting these from the forest. Though they grow paddy and other cereal crop but the forest plays major role in their life and living.



The villagers are very simple down to earth people. Because of lack of education and awareness they always become victims. Their fight is against poverty. YAR team is standing in between unauthorized people and agencies and helping the villagers getting their own rights which they are deprived of. In the process YAR is helping to strengthen the Forest right committees operative in all the target villages and taking steps for proper implementation of MJJY scheme.

YAR with the support of Azim Premji Foundation running a project named "Aadavasi". The project is about capacity building of target villagers so that they can learn how to earn their livelihood sustainably. YAR is working with 1286 villagers from 12 villages in 3 GPs (Bhainsadani, Nagpada, Boirgaon) of Boden Block.

Most of the villagers are forest dependent. Our (YAR) objective is to train them to collect and store forest products so that they can earn their livelihood by their own efforts. Our main focus is value addition to the forest products gathered by the villagers. Land right is also an issue. And we are addressing that by helping them to get their own right on their land and collective right on their forest. Thus, our project is to help the villagers to live a life with dignity which is their fundamental right.



Only collecting forest products and selling in the market may not give good monetary value but adding value to the products may thus; YAR with support of Banji Buten Farmer Producer Organization helped monetarily to two numbers of FRCs. YAR is committed to support every target village in future.

Under Aadavasi project a meeting was organized by Forest Right Committees (FRC). How the people collecting Mahula would get adequate payment was discussed and the village “Dhobei” was selected for pilot project. FRC of the village was permitted to buy and sell Mahula. This year 2024 they bought 100 quintal, Rs. 30 per Kg. and sold it for Rs. 40 per Kg. The market rate was Rs. 25 per Kg.



The buying and sailing process was closely monitored by YAR. They received help of Rs. 1.50,000 form Maa Banjibuten FPO. Because of the experiance they are targeting to buy 1000 to 1500 quintals of Mahula next year.