

Green Entrepreneurship through Local Production of Ecofriendly Fertilizers and Pesticides

Ultimately, the path to peace is not just about the absence of conflict but about creating opportunities for dialogue, understanding, and shared experiences that bring people together.

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Non-Timber Forest Products for Sustainable Livelihoods in Jammu & Kashmir

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) have long been a cornerstone of rural economies, offering sustainable livelihoods to communities that depend on the forests around them. According to Shackleton et al. (2011), NTFPs are biological products derived from wild species by human populations across diverse landscapes, excluding timber. These resources hold immense value, not only for their direct use in local communities but also for their contribution to the global market, as demonstrated by the significant economic footprint of NTFPs in India. In India, NTFPs are a lifeline for nearly one-third of the rural population, with 60% of India's NTFP production consumed locally and nearly half of the total revenue in the forestry sector generated through NTFP sales. These products are especially vital for women and small-scale forest-based businesses, which account for 20-30% of the rural labour force and derive up to 50% of their income from these resources.

These examples, as documented in various local reports and collected by the authors by personal interview underscore the immense potential of local resources and traditional knowledge in fostering sustainable livelihoods and catalyzing community development. In conclusion, the sustainable management of Non-Timber Forest Products offers significant opportunities for enhancing local livelihoods, conserving biodiversity and tapping into the global market for natural products. Establishing proper markets and channels is crucial for making niche NTFPs particularly those with medicinal properties accessible to a broader audience. By focusing on the commercial potential of underutilized NTFPs, startups and local enterprises can unlock new avenues for economic growth and sustainable development in regions like Jammu & Kashmir.