

## Scope for Value Addition of Decorative Forest Seeds

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### Abstract

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) are goods of biological origin other than timber and fuel wood from natural, modified or managed forested landscapes. The NTFPs provide the products for food, shelter, medicines, fibres, energy and cultural artefacts for many of the world's poorest people and a considerable proportion of the less poor. They include fruits and nuts, vegetables, medicinal plants, gum and resins, essences, bamboo, rattans and palms; fibres and flosses, grasses, leaves, seeds, mushrooms, honey and lac etc. Out of which NTFPs contribution is significant in providing adequate food, fuel, feed, health and fiber for growing populations. NTFPs are primary or supplemental source mainly in the poor and developing nations. NTFPs contribute significantly to forest economy of developed and industrialized nations also. NTFPs can be processed or value added into consumer-oriented products. Value addition of the beads play very important role in providing employment to the rural/tribal women and also proving alternate income for improving their livelihood. There are several forest plants/trees/climbers which are source of decorative seeds.

### Introduction

The NTFPs play important roles in the livelihoods of millions of rural and urban people across the globe. It is well established that NTFPs fulfill multiple functions in supporting human wellbeing. The NTFPs provide the products for food, shelter, medicines, fibres, energy and cultural artefacts for many of the world's poorest people and a considerable proportion of the less poor. The contribution of these daily net resources to livelihoods typically ranges from 10-60% of total household income. The NTFPs also provide many households with a means of income generation, either as

supplementary income to other livelihood activities, or as the primary means of cash generation.

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are goods of biological origin other than timber and fuel wood from natural, modified or managed forested landscapes. They include fruits and nuts, vegetables, medicinal plants, gum and resins, essences, bamboo, rattans and palms; fibres and flosses, grasses, leaves, seeds, mushrooms, honey and lac etc. Majority of rural households in developing countries and a large proportion of urban households depend on the products to meet some part of their nutritional, health, house construction, or other needs. The NTFPs create high economic value and large-scale employment. The NTFPs have attracted global interest due to the increasing recognition of the fact that they can provide important community needs for improved rural livelihood.

Globally, more than a billion people depend directly on forests for their livelihoods and the remaining six billion of us depend on forests for a variety of economic, social and environmental benefits. Out of which NTFPs contribution is significant in providing adequate food, fuel, feed, health and fiber for growing populations. The importance of NTFPs in rural livelihoods in developing countries has become widely acknowledged.

In India, NTFPs contribute an income equivalent to US\$ 2.7 billion per year and absorb 55% of the total employment in forestry sector. Moreover, 50% of forest revenues and 70% of forest-based export income come from such resources. They provide 50% of the household income for approximately one third of India's rural population. NTFPs are primary or supplemental source mainly in the poor and developing nations. NTFPs contribute significantly to forest economy of developed and industrialized

nations also. NTFPs can be processed or value added into consumer-oriented products. They have commercial importance and can contribute to the economic development of a region or a nation. Commercialization of value addition of NTFPs is now promoted as an approach to rural development especially in tropical forest areas. Unfortunately, commercialization of NTFPs has exploited and deprived the collectors. Among the different categories of NTFPs, decorative seeds (Beads) are the one which have wide scope for value addition and helps in increasing family income of the farmers/tribes.

### Decorative Seeds (Beads) as Source for Value Addition

Beads are the hard spherical or oval stony inner portions of the seeds of the fruit. Several plant species produces variety of decorative seeds with respect to colour and shape and they are widely used for weights by goldsmith, for making rosaries, earrings, buttons, bracelets, necklaces, decoration of curtains and other ornamental objects such as heads of hat pins and for embroidering the small silk hand bags and also for making snuff boxes. Value addition of the beads play very important role in providing employment to the rural/tribal women and also proving alternate income for improving their livelihood. There are several forest plants/trees/climbers which are source of decorative seeds.

#### Sources of decorative seeds (beads)

##### 1. *Abrus precatorius*: Fabaceae; Indian Liquorice, Crab's eye, Gulaganji

It is a climbing shrub; seeds are available in three different colours, viz., red seed with black eye, black seed with white eye & white seed often dirty white. Each seed weights about 1.75 grains. Seeds are used as weights by goldsmith, beads for necklaces

##### 2. *Adenanthera pavonina*: Caesalpinaceae: Redwood tree, Coral wood, Bead tree

The seeds are of shining scarlet colour; used as weights by jewellers and goldsmiths, in ornaments and necklaces

##### 3. *Aquilaria agallocha*: Thymelaeaceae; Agarwood, Eaglewood

Seeds and wood are largely used for rosary beads.

##### 4. *Balnites aegyptiaca*: Zygophyllaceae; Ingali, Desert date

Fruits are used as beads for ornamental purposes.

##### 5. *Caesalpinia bonducella*/C. *crista*/C. *banduc*: Caesalpinaceae; Fever Nut, Gajjaga

Seeds are used for necklaces, bracelets and window curtains.

##### 6. *Calamus viminalis*, C. *latifolius*: Palmae

Seeds used to strung in to necklaces

##### 7. *Elaeocarpus sphaericus*/E. *ganitrus*: Elaeocarpaceae; Utrasum bead tree, Rudraksh E. *lancifolius* & E. *tuberculatus* (Bhutali)

Hard tubercled nuts are made into rosaries, bracelets, necklaces and buttons

##### 8. *Entada scandens*/E. *phaseoloides*: Mimosaceae; Nickerbean

The hard endosperm of the seed is scooped out and shell is made into snuff boxes

##### 9. *Nelumbo nucifera*: Nymphaeaceae; East Indian Lotus

It is an aquatic herb; common in ponds and lakes; seeds are used as beads

##### 10. *Putranjiva roxburghii*: Euphorbiaceae; Child life tree, Indian Amulet plant, Life of child

Nuts are used to form rosaries and necklaces; there is a belief that when the bracelets are worn by children the evil spirits can be kept off. Hence it is known as "Life of the child"

##### 11. *Zanthoxylum rhetsa*/Fagara *badrunga*: Rutaceae; Jummina, Kadumenasu

The spines and thorns are made into beads, necklaces and buttons

##### 12. *Zizyphus mauritiana*/Z. *juzuba*: Rhamnaceae; Ber

Stones/seeds are made into bracelets.





*Abrus precatorius*



*Adenanthera pavonina*



*Aquilaria agallocha*



*Balnites aegyptiaca*



*Caesalpinia bonducella*



*Calamus viminalis*



*Elaeocarpus sphaericus*



*Entada scandens*



*Nelumbo nucifera*



*Putranjiva roxburghii*



*Zanthoxylum rhetsa*



*Zizyphus mauritiana*

**Fig 1. Sources of decorative seeds (Beads)**





**Fig. 2. Value added products of decorative seeds (Beads)**

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