

## **Concept Note on Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and its Management**

India is a mega biodiversity country with 18,000 species of flowering plants. Apart from yielding timber and fuelwood, many plants yield root, bark, leaves, flowers, seeds and fruits which are collectively termed as non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

*NTFP contributes a major share in day to day livelihood activities of tribals of areas adjoining forests.* As per the Dr. T.Haque Committee Interim Report following 13 MFPs viz., tendu, bamboo, mahua flower, mahua seed, sal leaves, sal seeds, lac, chironji, wild honey, myrobalan, tamarind, gums and Karanj have been included in the list of NTFPs that would be supported by providing Minimum Support Price to the tribals for marketing and protecting their interests directly without intermediaries. In West Bengal all these MFPs form an important use and are also being used for earning small livelihood in the regions where there is appreciable tribal population and MFP resources in the forest areas. The working plans also include such forest areas under the Overlapping and Mandatory Working Circles for the proper and sustainable management of such areas.