

PROJECT PROFILE

Title of the Project: Establishment of seed production systems for NTFPs of Attapady Hills

Principle Investigator: Dr. Rekha R. Warriar

Project Associate: Smt. R. Anandalakshmi, Scientist C, IFGTB
Shri Radhakrishnan, Deputy Director, AHADS
Anil V. John, FRO, IFGTB

Duration of Project: 2006-2008

Objective:

1. To catalogue the natural regeneration pattern of the species
2. Develop techniques for afforestation to supplement natural regeneration
3. Standardise regeneration techniques
4. Re-introduce the species back into its natural location

Funding agency: AHADS

Summary

- Agriculture and sale of minor forest products are the two traditional sources of income to the tribals of Attapady. The species selected for the study are the major NTFP yielding species for the tribal communities which face destruction due to their destructible harvest. Population status of the NTFPs was studied. Seed handling procedures were developed for the species *Acacia concina*, *Caesalpinia sappan*, *Terminalia chebula*. Fruits / pods of different NTFP species harvested by tribals were collected from Attapady Reserve Forest; pretreatment studies conducted and produced seedlings for the establishment of Seed Production System (SPS).
- A seed production system has been established in an area of 1.615 ha. The species *Aegle marmelos*, *Saraca asoca*, *Oroxylum indicum*, *Acacia concina*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Asparagus racemosus* and *Caesalpinia sappan* have been planted. The espacement followed is 5 x 5 m with pits of size 50 x 50 x 50 cm. The tribal farming society was involved in the establishment of the SPS right from the time of site preparation and has been giving protective watering and maintenance till date. The survival of the plants at the end of 3 months was 84 % on an average (ranging from 78-91 depending on the

species) and at the end of 6 months it is 70 % on an average (ranging from 70-90 depending on the species). The Vattaluki Tribal Farming Society (VTFS) is the beneficiary of the project output.