

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NON-WOOD NEWS

A strong characteristic of *Non-Wood News* is that it is open to contributions from readers. Should you have any interesting material on any aspect of NWFPs that could be of benefit to all our readers, please do not hesitate to submit it. Articles are welcomed in English, French and Spanish and should be between 200–500 words.

The deadline for contributions for *Non-Wood News 21* is 15 May 2010.

For more information, please contact: Tina Etherington at the address on the front page or by e-mail to: non-wood-news@fao.org



Wood News, el último fue el Nº 19. Les rogamos que enviándonos continúen enviando los próximos números, pues son de gran interés, especialmente para aquellos que se dedican al campo forestal.

Reader from the Islamic Republic of Iran
I am very thankful because you posted the journal of NWFPs for me. I use it in my research. Again, I must thank you and your colleagues.

Reader from the United Kingdom
Your newsletters and digests continue to be excellent and the best way of keeping in touch with what is happening in the global NWFP world! I recommend them to all my students. Keep up the good work! ♣

which is special in its quality and content. So much information gathered!
I am specially impressed by the guest article by Patricia Shanley on "communication research ...". The reality is too often to be observed.

Reader from the United Kingdom
I've just received the print version of Issue 19. Congratulations on yet another fantastic bulletin, full of great articles and news items!

I'm particularly keen to read Patricia Shanley's guest article, it will be great to get her insights on communicating research results, something you and your colleagues do extremely well via *Non-Wood News*. Congratulations also to Claudia Tonini, the layout is great.

Thanks again to you and your colleagues for all the hard work that goes into producing this invaluable resource.

Reader from Canada
Thank you so much for all of the work done with *Non-wood News*, it's an incredible resource.

A library from Peru
Con continuidad nos viene llegando *Non-*

Comments received

Reader from Italy
Congratulations on the quality of the bulletin.

Reader from Germany
I want to congratulate you for this issue

EXPERIENCE AT FAO AS A VOLUNTEER

My road to FAO started in March 2009 when I was asked by my university to look for a three-month internship between August and November. Since I was already studying in Rome for a Masters in Human Development and Food Security, searching for an opportunity in FAO was an obvious choice.

The Volunteer Programme offered a perfect chance for a young student to start building up some relevant work experience, I therefore applied by sending my CV to the programme (Volunteer-Programme@fao.org), attaching a letter explaining my studies and what I could offer during my assignment. My eagerness to learn through such a relevant working environment for me such as FAO met with the Forestry Department's search for a volunteer to help contribute to its

NWFP monthly digest. Two months after having applied, I was therefore selected from a list of other young candidates and swiftly proceeded to begin my assignment.

As a Masters student in Human Development and Food Security, contributing to the NWFP digest and *Non-Wood News* has been a truly enriching experience.

During the course of my studies I have learned how to assess various livelihood practices and safety nets used by vulnerable populations, all essential strategies if we want to analyse food security seriously in order to devise plans to increase people's well-being sustainably. This theoretical framework was for me a starting-point to expand on what these livelihoods constitute in practice and how they are used by vulnerable communities.

Working with NWFPs has been an excellent opportunity for me to learn

how local communities use the natural resources of the forest for their livelihoods, not only for their subsistence but also as income-generating activities. These months of researching NWFPs have truly opened my eyes to a world of infinite forest resources that can be used as primary foodstuffs, medicinal remedies, ornamental and cosmetic tools, fabrics and materials for diverse equipment and many other goods.

The essential role of NWFPs will forever be part of my understanding of livelihood strategies on whatever career path I embark; for this, I have to thank all the people who helped make my stay so enlightening, especially Tina Etherington who gave me this wonderful opportunity and, even more important, introduced me to such a fascinating and relevant topic.

Agnese Bazzucchi, Volunteer, NWFP Programme