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Subscription to Non-Wood News is free of charge. Please send an e-mail to non-wood-news@fao.org if you would like to receive a copy and be added to our mailing list.

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 and 500 words.

The deadline for contributions for Non-Wood News 16 is 15 October 2007.

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

Request for information: bamboo/bamboo charcoal as renewable energy

Are there any institutions with an interest in bamboo/bamboo charcoal as renewable energy – especially in Africa, or possible donors for this area?

If you can help, please contact:

Fu Jinhe Ph.D., Senior Program Officer and Coordinator of IUFRO 5.11.05 Bamboo and International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), 8 Fu Tong Dong Da Jie, Wang Jing area, Chao Yang district, Beijing 100102, China. Fax: +86-10-6470 2166; e-mail: jfu@inbar.int; http://www.inbar.int

History of NWFP development

Could you please provide me with information or reference to learn a bit about "The history of development of NWFP as a discipline or subject"? I need this info to prepare a small textbook on NWFPs for our students here. (Reader in Armenia)

Use of NWFPs is as old as the human race. They provided the earliest food, medicines and shelter. They were the earliest traded goods. When the wild plants were domesticated, thousands of years ago, wild NWFPs became agricultural products. And that led to agricultural revolution – settled and managed use of farm lands.

However, when industrial revolution took place (and wage employment and large factories along with infrastructure development and transportation facilities came up), timber became the prime forest product. All others were grouped as Minor Forest Products (MFPs).

Thus, by the time the formal and organized educational institutions as sources of knowledge dissemination were established, forest management had narrowed its scope to timber management. Knowledge on NWFPs mostly remained local and traditional.

It is only recently that MFPs have re-emerged from obscurity, as NWFPs (shedding their minor status) – prompted by several developments or events such as progressive loss of forest as a timber source, awareness about the need for environmental conservation and non-destructive uses of forests, green consumerism and premium value for organic products, etc. However, progress has been hampered by several hurdles – from lack of policy to lack of necessary skills and research support.

This reader can get a lot of information about the history of NWFPs from several Web sites and also from the Report of the International Expert Consultation on NWFPs, No. 3 in FAO's NWFP series. (Reply from Mr C. Chandrasekharan, founder of FAO's NWFP Programme and first editor of Non-Wood News.)

Feedback on the last (new look) issue

- *Non-Wood News* provided me with valuable leads to useful references while I was writing up my doctorate. (Reader in South Africa)
- [Commenting on the new look] It is very near to the colours of Mother Nature. I liked it. (Reader in India)
- Thanks for sending the latest issue of *Non-Wood News*. As usual it's full of interesting notes. (Reader in the United Kingdom)
- I have read the recent *Non-Wood News* (14) with much enjoyment. It has provided me with numerous case study examples for my lectures, not to mention the new information on what is useful elsewhere and could be profitably adopted here in Uganda. I have also benefited by way of the clear articulation of issues and this has improved my communication skills. (Reader in Kampala, Uganda)
- Please continue with the excellent endeavour for we are benefiting from it

tremendously. (Reader in Laguna, the Philippines)

- Let me comment here that you people are doing a great job ... each edition for me is simply un-put-downable ... I read it cover to cover. (Reader in Kogi state, Nigeria)
- *Non-Wood News* is very interesting because we have found some good ideas in it, and look forward to some more good reading. (Reader in Kelmscott, Australia)
- Congratulations! The new NWN looks great! Loads of interesting things to read too. (Reader in Italy)
- I appreciate too much this magazine because I am informed of the news in the world. Where I work we have almost no contribution from the authorities. This kind of publication gives interesting information to people who want to improve the environment. (Reader in La Plata, Argentina)
- FAO's NWFP information is useful for teaching students and guiding them for research. (Reader in New Delhi, India)
- I always wish for and am happy to get the hard copy format as I have very limited access facilities as well as slow download speed. (Reader in Chittagong, Bangladesh)
- We greatly appreciate receiving and reading *Non-Wood News*. (Reader in Surrey, United Kingdom)
- The current issue of *Non-Wood News* (14) was really amazing and interesting and the use of colour makes it more attractive. (Reader in Noakhali, Bangladesh)
- I am receiving *Non-Wood News* for the last eight years and I find it very informative. (Reader in West Bengal, India)
- *Non-Wood News* is a wonderful publication. (Reader in Michigan, United States of America) ♣

LET'S KNOW MEDICINAL HERBS

I would like to invite readers to watch this 32-minute Hindi film regarding some medicinal herbs. Names of botanical names are given in subtitles: www.cgnet.in/av/pankaj.wmv/audio_view. This is a very first effort but I am planning to go along in this way.

I look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions. (Pankaj Oudhia, India, e-mail: pankajoudhia@gmail.com)

Creative use of Non-Wood Forest Products



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An imaginative use of the abundant pine needles from a nearby forest has enabled local women in one community of Honduras to create original handicrafts. The use of this NWFP brings benefits, both direct (income-generation) and indirect (protecting the forest). With over 2 million hectares of pine forests in Honduras alone, this innovative and creative use of pine needles could be copied by other communities, not only in Honduras but also in other countries around the world.