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## Economic analysis of Tendu Patta collection

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### Abstract

Investigation was undertaken in Wardha district of Vidarbha region. Total 75 Tendu Patta pluckers were selected and data pertained for the year 2020-21. The average household size of Tendu Patta pluckers were estimated at 4.31 and majority of them were educated upto high school level. The average annual household income of Tendu Patta Pluckers were estimated to Rs. 83499.98. Own farm Agriculture was the main occupation of Tendu Patta Pluckers. The income from own Agriculture farm was found predominant over other sources. The individual Tendu Patta Plucker was spend on an average 5.59 hours per day and they travelled average distance was estimated 2.81 Kms per day for collection of Tendu Patta. All Tendu Patta pluckers were sold their collected Tendu Patta to private agents. The threat from wild animals was the major constraint in Tendu Patta collection. The absence of employment during April- June was the main reason behind choosing this profession of Tendu Patta collection.

**Keywords:** Tendu Patta collection, livelihood, alternative employment, income generation

### Introduction

Tendu leaf (*Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb.) is a commercially important renewable natural resource. These leaves are used for wrapper tobacco for making beedies due to their peculiar flavour, flexibility, feather texture and resistance to early decay. Besides domestic consumption, a large quantity of tendu leaves and beedi are exported to various countries, and in turn the nation earns valuable foreign exchange. The collection of tendu leaves is generating large employment and income for the tribals and the rural poor. Tendu leaves are naturally grown mainly in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar and contribute the highest share in the total revenue obtained from non-timber forest products (NTFPs) or minor forest products (MFPs) in these states. In Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu these leaves also occur sporadically.

### Objectives

1. To study the socio-economic characteristics of tendu patta plucker
2. To estimate the income generation from tendu patta collection
3. To identify the constraints in tendu patta collection

### Methodology

The present study was undertaken in Wardha district of Vidarbha region. The district was selected purposively, Total 75 tendu patta plucker will be selected and data pertains for the year 2020-21. The schedule was designed for data collection by keeping in view of the objectives. The simple tabular analysis i.e. Percentage, Average etc. was carried out to accomplish the objectives of present study.

### Results and Discussion

The demographic profile of Tendu patta plucker is presented in Table 2

**Table 1:** Selection of sample from Arvi Tahasil

| Sr. No. | Name of Village | Total No. of Sample |
|---------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1       | Pachod (Thakur) | 25                  |
| 2       | Harrashi        | 25                  |
| 3       | Hiwara (Tanda   | 25                  |
|         | Total           | 75                  |

**Table 2:** Demographic Profile of Tendu patta plucker

| Characteristics                  | Level                | Plucker (%) | Total |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------|
| Gender                           | Total                | 100.00      | 75    |
|                                  | Male                 | 78.67       | 59    |
|                                  | Female               | 21.33       | 16    |
| Category                         | VJ(A)                | 78.67       | 59    |
|                                  | SC                   | 5.33        | 04    |
|                                  | ST                   | 9.33        | 07    |
|                                  | OBC                  | 6.67        | 05    |
| Education                        | Primary              | 30.67       | 23    |
|                                  | Middle               | 30.67       | 23    |
|                                  | High school          | 36.00       | 27    |
|                                  | Intermediate         | 2.66        | 02    |
| Family Types                     | Nuclear              | 82.67       | 62    |
|                                  | Joint                | 17.33       | 13    |
| Average Household size (Members) | 4.31                 |             |       |
| Land holding (ha)                | Average land holding | 0.59        | 41.90 |
|                                  | 50,000-60,000        | 8.00        | 06    |
| Annual income level (Rs)         | 60,000-70,000        | 14.66       | 11    |
|                                  | 70,000-80,000        | 26.67       | 20    |
|                                  | Above 80,000         | 50.67       | 38    |
| Average Household Income (Rs)    | 83499.98             |             |       |

The information presented in Table 2 reveals that, the demographic characteristics of tendu patta plucker among all the tendu patta plucker 78.67 percent of the tendu patta plucker are male followed by 21.33 percent were female. The Category wise distribution shows that majority of them i.e. 78.67 percent are belonging to VJ (A) category followed by ST, OBC and SC category. The education composition shows that majority of them are educated up to high school i.e. 36.00 percent followed by primary and middle school. According to family type most of them are live in nuclear family (82.67%) followed by joint family. The average household size of respondent was estimated at 4.31. The percent of household having income level of above 80,000 was found more i.e. 50.67 percent. The average annual household income was estimated to be Rs. 83499.98. The Distribution of Tendu patta plucker according to main occupation is presented in Table 3

**Table 3:** Distribution of Tendu patta plucker according to main occupation

| Occupation           | Total | Percentage |
|----------------------|-------|------------|
| Tendu patta plucker  | 75    | 100.00     |
| Own farm agriculture | 52    | 69.33      |
| Agricultural labour  | 23    | 30.67      |

The information presented in Table 3 reveals that, the Tendu patta plucker adopted different occupations for their livelihood. It is notice that Own farm Agriculture remains the main occupation i.e. 69.33 percent of tendu patta plucker having it, followed by Agricultural labour (30.67 percent). Nature of Tendu patta collection is presented in the Table 4

**Table 4:** Nature of Tendu Patta collection (Per day)

| Sr. No | Particulars             | Per Day |
|--------|-------------------------|---------|
| 1      | Distance Traveled (kms) | 2.81    |
| 2      | Time Spend (hrs)        | 5.59    |
| 3      | No. of leaves collected | 18690   |

The information presented in Table 4 reveals that, the nature of tendu patta collection is one day process for which

individual plucker travel long distance to collect the leaves and spend on average 5.59 hours only in collection. It again takes half day to make bundles and deliver in purchasing center. The average distance they travel was estimated as 2.81 km. It is also estimated that the plucker households generally collect an average 18690 leaves in a day. The household percent share in marketing of tendu patta is presented in Table 5

**Table 5:** Marketing of Tendu Patta (% of Households)

| Particulars                                   | Wardha District |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Nature of Marketing</b>                    |                 |
| No. of Average leaves/Bundle                  | 70              |
| No. of Bundles sold/day/family                | 267             |
| Price received by Plucker/Bundle (Rs)         | 2.55            |
| Distance Walked for marketing (km)            | 1.48            |
| <b>Place of Marketing</b>                     |                 |
| Sold to Private Agents                        | 100.00          |
| Total   | 100.00          |
| <b>Mode of payment</b>                        |                 |
| Daily   | 9.86            |
| Weekly  | 90.14           |
| Total   | 100.00          |
| <b>Nature of payment (Paid by contractor)</b> |                 |
| Comes to the village                          | 88.73           |
| Ask everyone to come to office                | 11.27           |
| Total   | 100.00          |

The information presented in Table 5 reveals that, the selling of collected leaves by the individual household, the one bundle contains 70 leaves and average number of bundles sold by a household in a day was estimated as 267 bundles. As a unit is consists of more than two villages, the collection center is generally located at the center so that every plucker has to travel more or less distance to deposit their leaves at collection center. It was found that the distance walked for marketing (km) is 1.48 km. It was found that all of tendu patta plucker sale their collected leaves to private agents. About the mode of payment 90.14 percent of them said have received their payment for leave on weekly basis followed by 9.86 percent daily basis. According to the nature of payment private contractor generally come to the village for payment as said by 88.73 percent of plucker. Sometimes if the tendu leaf pluckers are not at home in payment date they are asked to come to the office for taking payment said by 11.27 percent. The Tendu patta plucker faced by the problems during collection of Tendu patta is presented in Table 6.

**Table 6:** Constraints faced by Tendu Patta plucker

| Sr. No | Constraints              | Total No. | Percent |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 1      | Threat from wild animals | 37        | 49.33   |
| 2      | Walk long distance       | 22        | 29.33   |
| 3      | Monopoly to purchase     | 10        | 13.33   |
| 4      | Snake bite               | 06        | 8.00    |
|        | Total                    | 75        | 100.00  |

The information presented in Table 6 reveals that, there are various constraints the pluckers face during the collection of tendu patta. 49.33 percent of pluckers were experienced constraints in the form of threat from wild animals, followed by walk long distance (29.33 percent), Monopoly to purchase (13.33 percent) and snake bite (8.00 percent). Reasons for choosing Tendu patta collection is presented in Table 7

**Table 7:** Reasons for choosing Tendu patta collection

| Sr. No | Reasons                                   | Total No. of Household | Percent of Households |
|--------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1      | Absence of employment during April – June | 31                     | 41.34                 |
| 2      | Family tradition                          | 15                     | 20.00                 |
| 3      | Easy to collect leaves                    | 22                     | 29.33                 |
| 4      | Friends/Neighbours households goes        | 07                     | 9.33                  |
|        | Total                                     | 75                     | 100.00                |

The information presented in Table 7 reveals that due to the absence of employment during April- June opined by 41.34 percent of household behind adopting tendu patta collection as a livelihood source followed by easy to collect leaves (29.33 percent), Family tradition (20.00 percent).

Friends/Neighbours households goes (9.33 percent).

The average number of day employed in a year is presented in

**Table 9:** Share of income from various sources of Tendu patta plucker

| Sr. No. | Sources                        | Average income of Tendu patta plucker | Percentage |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 1       | Own Agriculture farm           | 31467.67                              | 37.69      |
| 2       | Income from Agriculture Labour | 23649.3                               | 28.32      |
| 3       | Income from Livestock          | 9380.31                               | 11.23      |
| 4       | Income from Tendu Patta        | 19002.71                              | 22.76      |
|         | Total                          | 83499.99                              | 100        |

The information presented in Table 9 reveals that the income from own Agriculture farm was found predominant over other sources i.e 37.69 percent of income received from it, followed by income from Agriculture labour (28.32 percent), income from tendu patta (22.76 percent), Income from livestock (11.23 percent) respectively.

## Conclusions

### The conclusions of the study are as below

1. The average household size of tendu patta plucker was estimated at 4.31 and majority of them are educated up to high school level.
2. The average annual household income of tendu patta pluckers were estimated to be Rs. 83499.98. Own farm Agriculture was the main occupation of tendu patta pluckers.
3. The individual tendu patta plucker was spend on an average 5.59 hours per day and they travelled average distance was estimated 2.81 Km per day for collection of tendu leaves
4. All tendu patta pluckers sell their collected leaves to private agents.
5. Threat from wild animals was the major constraint in tendu patta collection.
6. The absence of employment during April- June was the main reason behind choosing this profession of tendu patta collection.
7. The income from own Agriculture farm was found predominant over other sources.

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Table 8

**Table 8:** Average number of days employed in a year

| Sources                | Average number of days |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Own farm Agriculture   | 67.78                  |
| Agricultural labour    | 126.36                 |
| Tendu patta collection | 25.49                  |
| Total                  | 219.63                 |

The information presented in Table 8 reveals that it was observed that total number of days employed in a year by tendu patta plucker is 219.63 days. In year more number of days i.e. 126.36 days they worked as a Agricultural labour followed by own farm Agriculture (67.78 days), tendu patta collection (25.49 days) respectively. Share of income from various sources of Tendu patta pluckers during the season is presented in Table 9

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