

40. Of the various items, which form part of the domestic food budget of an average tribal family? In respect of each of these items, what are the proportions of domestic consumption and sale?

Honey, fruits, tubers and wild pig etc are all eaten by primitive tribes In the case of Nicobaris MFP form a minor portion of food, as they have started eating grain & pulses.

41. Is there a practice by tribals of value addition, say through processing (e.g deseeding of tamarind) of items of MFP and , if so , of which item s? Please give a full account of the various items, the processing involved, the products obtained and approximate benefits accruing.

In Nicobar the mat making with Kewra leaves and broom making of coconut is popular. There is no such sale of MFP.

42. In your state, how would you estimate the contribution of MFP to the total budget of an average tribal family? To clarify, the other major sources of the budget would be farm produce and Labour. No doubt, some evaluation studies might have been done in this regard.

In case of hunting and food gathering tribes the MFP is for consumption by the family. In the case of Nicobaris no estimate has been made of contributions of MFP to their economy. However it is negligible as the tribe is largely dependent on coconut cultivation & fishing.

43. The National Forest Policy expects that special attention should be paid to, interalia, protection, regeneration and optimum collection of MFP along with institutional arrangements for the marketing of such produce. Each of the three items Viz protection, regeneration and collection requires its own approach. Please spell out in detail steps taken in regard to each of these important issues.

Under 10th Plan Dept has introduced schemes to protect the forest and coastal eco-system of the Islands. For regeneration of forests there is a special scheme of Natural regeneration & enrichment of forest areas. Tribes can collect the MFPs free of cost from forest areas.

44. A major problem in the field of tribal MFP is marketing. it has been seen that tribal women generally undertake the marketing operations and lose out to the trader, middlemen etc. to counter exploitation, large-seized multipurpose cooperative societies(LAMPS) were established in several states to (a) purchase from tribals their surplus farm and forest produce at remunerative prices (b) sale to them of their consumer necessities at reasonable or controlled prices and (c) extend to them production and consumption loans at reasonable rates. What methods and practices have been adopted in your state for ensuring fair practices in the marketing of tribal produce?

No tribal is marketing MFP in A&N islands.