

***NTFP Exchange Programme-India Advocacy Initiative***

Is your party manifesto a **Green Manifesto ?**  
Can your party secure our precious ecosystem services?

***Read more to be committed ....***



- Unsustainable development is one of the biggest political frauds of India.
- We have lost most of our precious natural resources and habitats just because of this political sham.
- Environmental conservation has been more of a namesake.
- The Forest Conservation Act has been used less for conservation and more for making money.
- The Protected Area management made Sariska tiger-free.
- The Environmental Protection Act is tactfully defied through false/superficial EIAs.
- Pollution control is actually out of control.
- Plantation programmes seem to rather benefit the Forest Department than the forests themselves.
- Public hearing/comments are first allowed, and then ignored. Rights of tribals and other vulnerable communities are tactfully violated.
- Biodiversity conservation(Act) is more for some international obligation than for actual conservation.



Stop this political and bureaucratic hypocrisy.

Be committed to a green economy and sustainable development.





- Ecosystem management and land use management are correlated.
- We have ignored the delicate natural balance that exists between various ecosystem elements.
- We have diverted our precious agricultural and forest lands for mining, urbanization, and other such projects.
- The ecosystem equilibrium is now lost in most areas.
- The result is more natural disasters, severe water shortage, accelerated climate change, man-wildlife conflicts, and human misery.



**Be sensitive to ecosystem values, and effect a good land use policy for sustainable development.**





- Non-timber forest products(NTFP) support about 20% of India's population in the forest areas.
- Most of these people are women belonging to ST and SC communities.
- The market size of NTFP is more than Rs.6000 crores in the country with good scope for export.
- However, the NTFP sector remains unorganized and hence the traders benefit at the cost of the poor primary collectors.



- ✓ **Implement the Planning Commission's proposal for developing the NTFP sector in the 12<sup>th</sup> 5-year Plan (available at [http://planningcommission.gov.in/aboutus/committee/wrkgrp12/enf/wg\\_subntfp.pdf](http://planningcommission.gov.in/aboutus/committee/wrkgrp12/enf/wg_subntfp.pdf)).**
- ✓ **Adopt a national policy on NTFP, and establish a national agency for coordinating NTFP sector development.**
- ✓ **Facilitate corporate development of this sector, with sincere commitments for environmental and social sustainability.**





- Lac is a natural resin. It can be cultivated giving employment to thousands.
- It can provide a natural substitute to plastic if developed properly.
- Tamarind seed and many other natural products can produce biodegradable polymers that can replace plastic bags and prevent plastic pollution.



**Promote natural polymer/plastic using NTFPs, and save environment.**





Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Siali (*Bauhinia vahli*), and Palas (*Butea monosperma*) leaves are used to make plates and cups that are natural and biodegradable. They can provide employment to millions of women if properly promoted.



**Ban synthetic market competitors of these natural products for their market security.**

**Exempt the natural plates/cups from taxes/royalty.**





- Food security is not food safety.
- We might have enough food production, but most of our food grains, vegetables, and other eatable products are toxic due to chemical farming/processing.
- Genetic contamination is another emerging issue, ignored by the government.
- Synthetic dyes used to colour cakes and other food products are also toxic. Holi has become a dangerous festival because of these synthetic dyes.



**Promote organic cultivation, ensure food safety; promote natural dyes, and ensure a safe holi.**





Sal seeds can provide employment to millions of poor tribals, but because of our faulty policy its consumption in the domestic market is restricted. Europe allows sal butter in chocolate making whereas India doesn't.



**We need to change our policy so that sal seed can be used in Indian chocolate industries for an assured market.**





Mahua and tendu patta have been traditionally associated with the livelihood of millions of poor. Unfortunately both of them have only a single end market, that too quite undignified. Mahua is used in liquor making whereas tendu patta is used for bidi making.



**Ensure proper Research & Development to develop dignified markets for these forest products, and secure the livelihood of the people dependent on the same.**





Extremism usually takes shelter in forest areas, and even makes use of illicit trading of timber and other valuable forest products for fund raising. This however disturbs the ecological and socio-economic balance of the locality. Insurgency and counter-insurgency operations severely affect the normal forest-based livelihood of the innocent local communities.



**Security forces need to be sensitive towards this issue, and should include promotion of NTFP-based livelihood as a part of their trust-building strategy, apart from taking action against smuggling of forest products. The government should make special plans for Kashmir valley and the north-eastern states in view of the above.**





- Displacement in the name of development has been one of the major man-made social disasters on earth.
- The biggest sufferers of displacement are those who are landless or whose rights have not been properly recorded because of faulty survey & settlement operations. Due to want of recorded data, they do not receive compensation.
- Displacement is not simply from land, it is also the displacement from the livelihood base, from the cultural bonding, and also from the social environment. Therefore, compensation for land cannot compensate these inherent losses, thereby making the displaced people highly vulnerable and miserable.
- The situation is worsened by corrupt practices with delayed and/or denied compensation.
- Around 50 million people in India have suffered from the faulty approach to displacement and rehabilitation. And there are still more to suffer because of the upcoming projects. Women and children are the worst sufferers in such cases.

**Revise the policy and approach to the displacement & rehabilitation policy with due sensitivity. Avoid displacement to the maximum possible extent. Review the status of existing rehabilitation sites with a sympathetic and holistic vision, and ensure justice for those who have already suffered.**





### ***And last but not the least...***

The NGO sector is probably the third largest organized employment sector after the public- and private sectors. NGOs work in the public interest with a mixed attitude of professionalism and voluntarism to supplement and/or complement the efforts of a welfare State(government). Their strength lies in their flexibility and adaptability to the work environment, which helps them act swiftly unlike the government machinery which is tangled with red-tapism. They successfully link academicians, technocrats, bureaucrats, social scientists, policy makers, and other stakeholders for the greater cause of the people and the nation.

**Develop and promote the NGO sector as the development partner;  
help stabilize this potential sector for employment.**

Issued in public interest by the Non-timber Forest Products Exchange Programme network.  
Visit us at [www.ntfp.org.in](http://www.ntfp.org.in) for more details.





*Compiled on behalf of NTFP-Exchange Programme network, by:*



## **Regional Centre for Development Cooperation**

HIG-26, K-6, Phase-II, Kalinga Vihar

Bhubaneswar-751019, Odisha, India

Telefax : +91 (674) 2475410, 2475652

E-mail : [rcdcbbsr@gmail.com](mailto:rcdcbbsr@gmail.com), [rcdcbbsr@bsnl.in](mailto:rcdcbbsr@bsnl.in)

Website: [www.rcdcindia.org](http://www.rcdcindia.org), [www.banajata.org](http://www.banajata.org)

*Limited circulation for 2014 elections only*

