

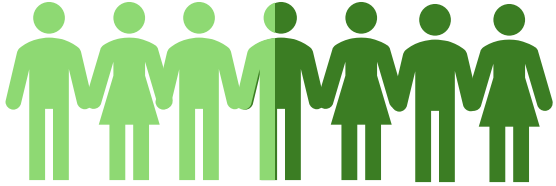
Making Non-Timber Forest Produce Value Chains Resilient



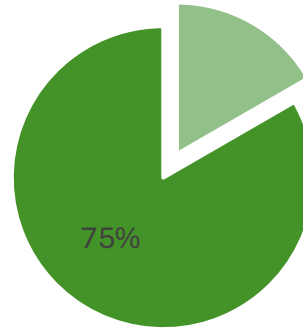
State of the Sector
Building Sustainable NTFP
Value Chains
Challenges and Need



Importance of NTFP



About 15 million people rely on NTFPs in MP & CG
About 300 million across India are forest dwellers

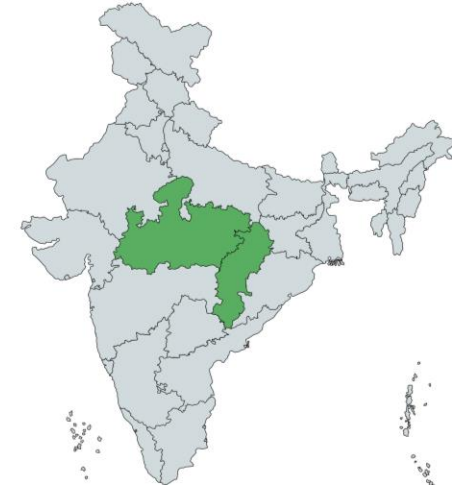


■ Other ■ NTFP

NTFP accounts for 75% of the total forest export revenue in India *



NTFPs are crucial for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, particularly in the face of climate vulnerability.

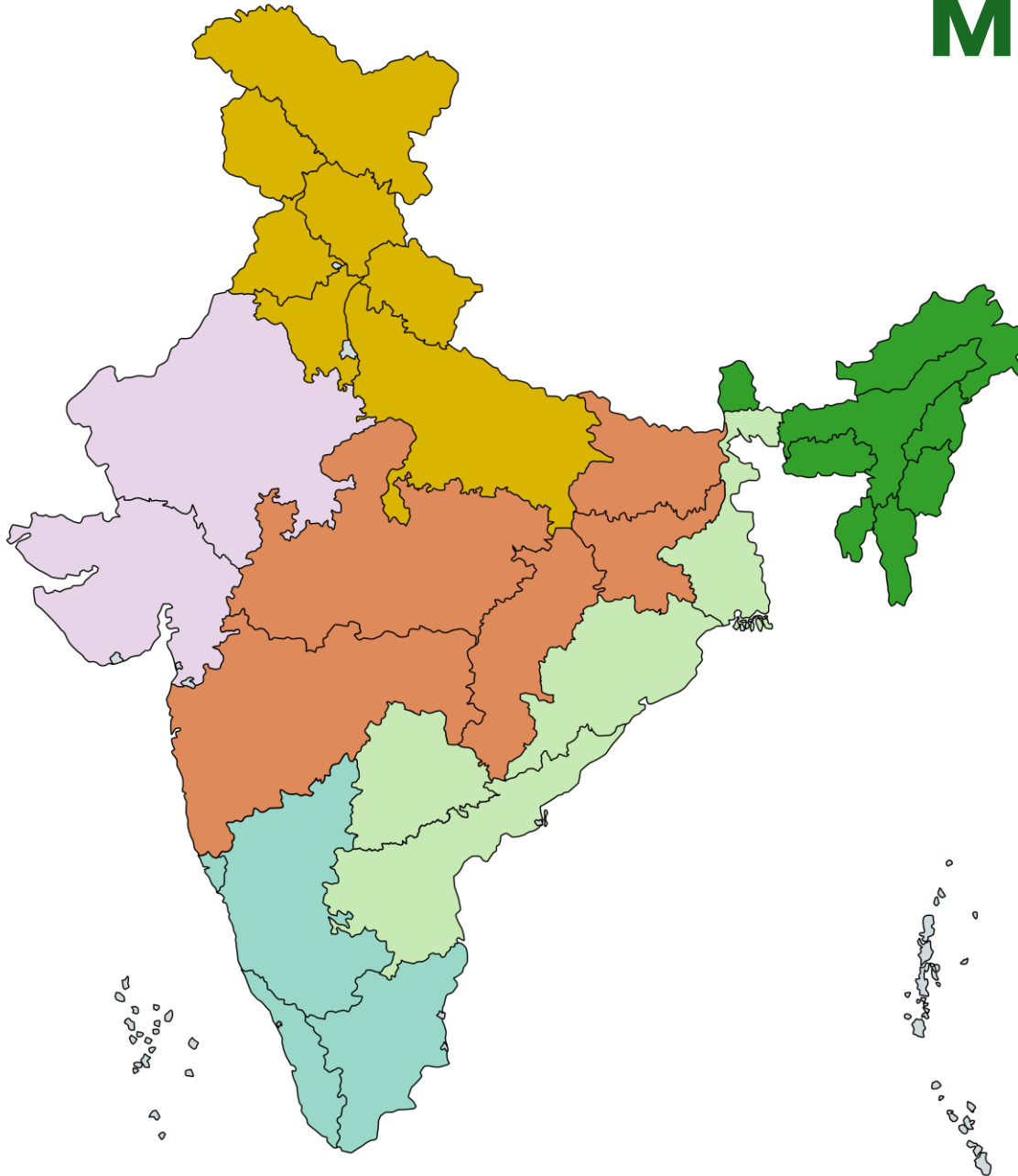


Estimates ranging from 20-54% population in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh HH income from NTFP



Essential cash income and quick remedies through herbal drugs

Major NTFPs in India



-  Lichens, Pinus, Devdar, Amla, Seabuck horn, Keeda jadi
-  Bay Leaves , Black Paper, Ginger, Turmeric, Bamboo, Broom Grass, Lichen , long pepper , Cinamon etc.
-  Amla, , Mahua, Bael, Chironji, Baibada, Kutug, Safed Mushli, Sita Phal, Harrad, Beheda, Tendu leaves, Lac
-  Acacia catechu, Acacia concinna, Cassia fistula, Tamarind, Amla, Bael, Mahua, Safed Kiwanch, Sabai grass
-  Amla, Chironji, Safed mushli, Harra, Behda, Satavar,
-  Honey, Shikakai, Soapnut, Tamarind, Amla, Kokum, Jackfruit

NTFPs: A Growing Market, A Complex Challenge

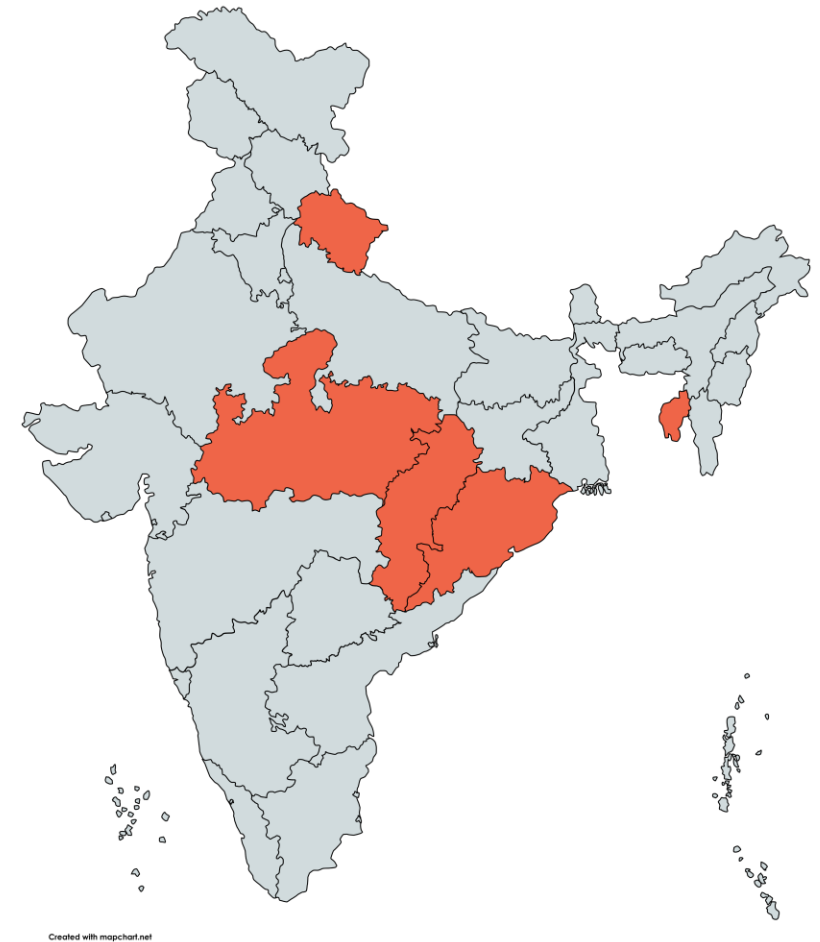
Increased Demand: Growing demand for natural products has driven up the value of NTFPs.

Government Revenue: States have benefited significantly from increased revenue from NTFPs.

Challenges for Communities: NTFP reliant communities bear the brunt of marketing and processing costs, reduced overall income.

Value Addition: Processing NTFPs at the primary collector's level can significantly increase earnings with boost returns for gatherers by up to 3 times.

Climate Change Impact: Altered phenology, extreme weather events, reduced productivity, and habitat loss due to climate change with reduced income of over 6 Lakh/annum and 20% loss in productivity



States with over 90% forest depletion due
to unsustainable NTFP harvesting

Navigating Challenges in NTFP Value Chain

Buyer's Market :

- **Dominance of buyers** in the market, leading to limited bargaining power for gatherers and producers.
- **Low prices** offered to gatherers due to competition and lack of alternative markets.
- Presence of **intermediaries who exploit gatherers** through unfair pricing, delayed payments, and quality manipulation.

Secretive Trade:

- **Information asymmetry** in the trade of NTFPs.
- Lack of **market information** for gatherers

High Economic Pressures:

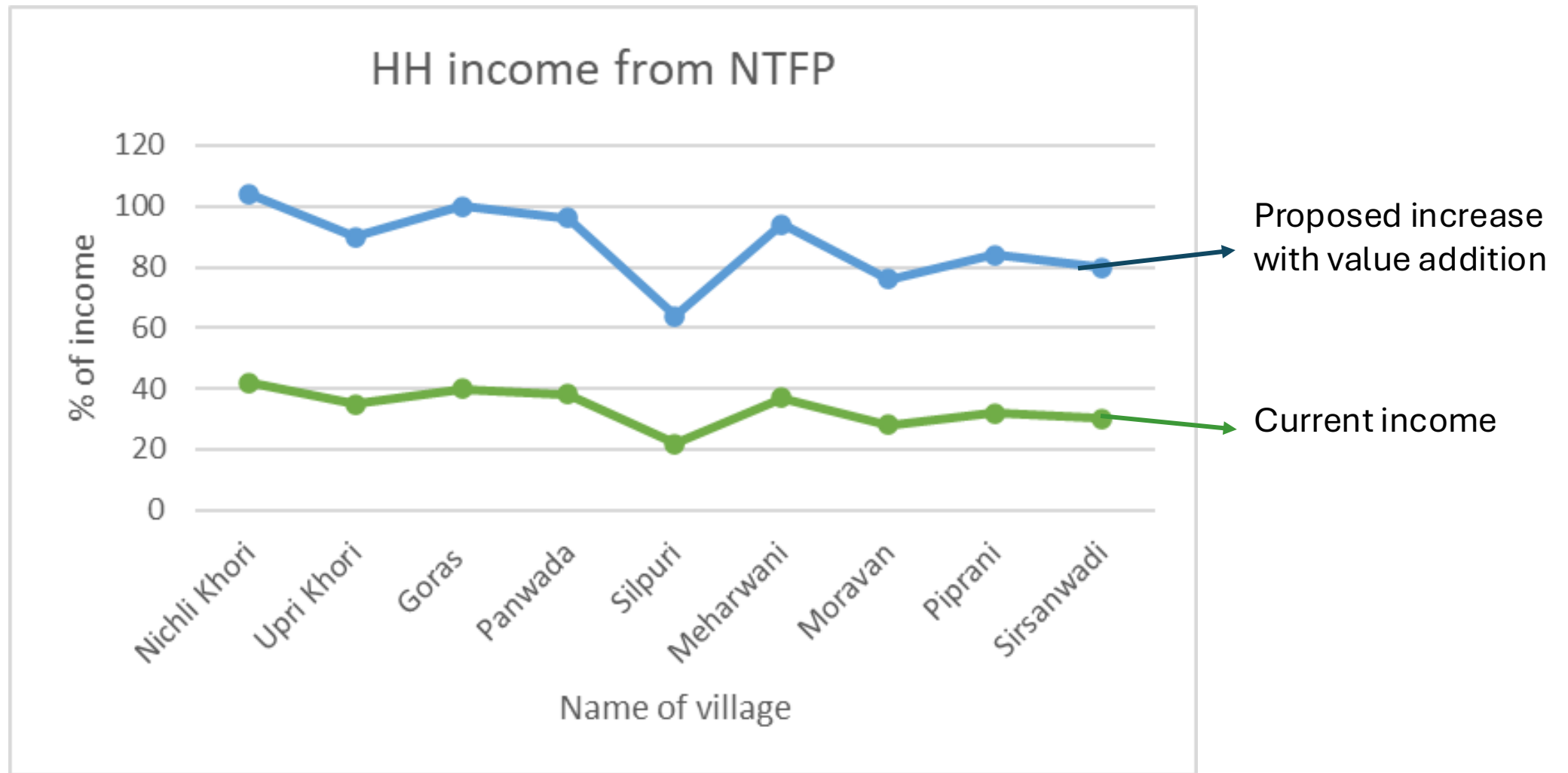
- **Overharvesting and premature** collection, threatening long-term viability of high-demand species.

Quality Preservation Issues:

- **Contamination** of NTFP products with foreign substances or lower-quality materials.
- Damage to the **reputation** of NTFPs and loss of consumer trust.



Mahua Value Addition



With little or no processing HH across 9 villages in Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh report NTFP to be up to 42% of their income. With basic processing this income can be increased by 20%

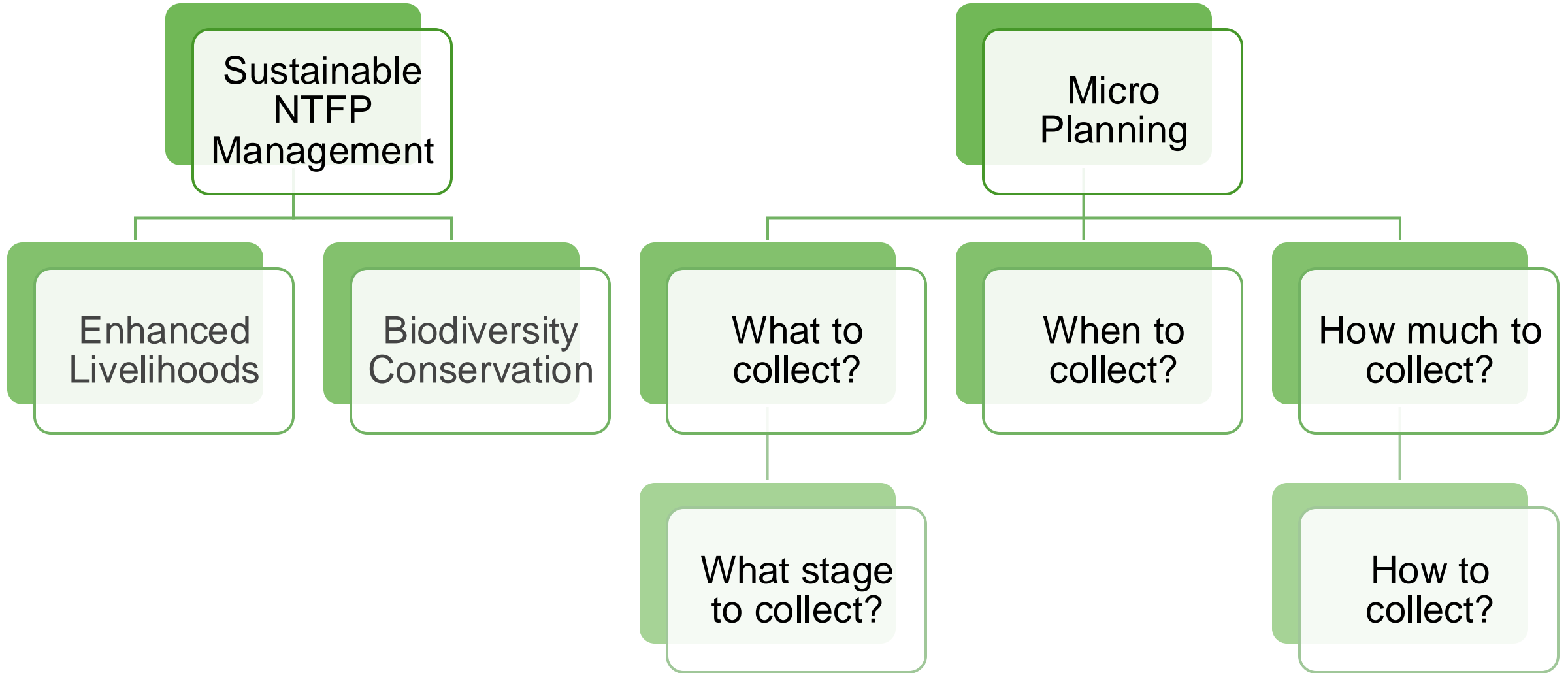
Harvesting practices

Unsustainable collection

Sustainable Collection



NTFP Management Strategy



Sustainability Guidelines for Harvesting NTFPs and Medicinal Plants

General Principle: A portion of each plant population or resource must be left untouched to ensure regeneration and sustainability.



25% of fruits left on plants



30% of seeds and flowers left on plants



80% of bulbs and roots left on plants



70% of leaves left on plants



50% of population left untouched for whole plants

Post Harvest Management – Learnings from Meghalaya

- **Low realized income:**

Gatherers in Meghalaya earn a meagre <30% against the national average of 40-45%

- **Post harvest loss:**

- 12% loss in turmeric processing
- 20% loss in ginger, bay leave, broom grass and lichen

- Access to decentralized technologies
- Access to reliable energy sources
- Access to markets

Main learnings and way forward from Meghalaya

- **Dependence on NTFPs and Spices:** Primitive tribal communities in North-East India have historically relied on these resources for their livelihoods.
- **Ecosystem Disturbance:** Greedy elements have disrupted the stable connection between livelihood and biodiversity.
- **Loss of Livelihood:** Many tribal communities now face challenges in balancing survival and conservation.
- **Meghalaya's Unique Topography:** Rolling topography, soil fertility, and heavy rainfall contribute to rich biodiversity.
- **NTFP Resource Potential:** Despite their value, NTFPs in Meghalaya are not benefiting locals to their full potential due to lack of conservation and sustainable interventions.
- **Post-Harvest Losses:** Significant post-harvest losses in NTFPs, especially turmeric, ginger, broom grass, and bay leaves, contribute to reduced farmer income.
- **Challenges:** Inadequate DRE technology, lack of access to finance and marketing, and limited mechanization hinder the sector's development.

Contd.....

- Training and Capacity Building
- Post Harvest Processing and Management losses
- Need for Cold Storage to prevent/reduce the losses
- Research issues are many which should be organized to get the specific information on points where intervention is needed
- Drudgery to women and high labor cost require mechanization and use of DRE in the activities from land preparation to production and value addition.
- Micro irrigation facility to be added for the unique topography
- More community institution for handholding is required
- There should be a dedicated policy regulation that only processed NTFPs and spices be exported to provide job and reduce carbon footprint.



**Thank you
Water is also an NTFP!**