

**Process Framework for the CEPF-ATREE project ‘Cinnamon Plant  
Resources of the Central Western Ghats: Impact Assessment,  
Livelihood issues and Conservation through Participatory Approach’,  
implemented by Narasimha Hegde, LIFE.**

A. Project background

Harvesting of *Cinnamon* is a significant ‘off-the-farm-activity’ among the indigenous communities in Uttara Kannada district. The high commercial value of cinnamon has most likely contributed to unsustainable harvesting methods. Virtually no reports exist on the estimates of resource base of Cinnamon, impact of harvesting on regeneration, issues related to livelihood and participatory conservation planning. In the proposed work, to be undertaken in Sirsi and Karwar forest divisions, we would like to address these issues in the species *Cinnamomum malabattrum*, *C zeylanicum* and *C. riparium*. These species have also been focused by CEPF in strategic direction 2.1 and the latter is categorized as ‘vulnerable’ according to recent IUCN red list. Project components are

1. Assessment of the impact of harvesting on the regeneration.
2. Assess the dependency on the species for livelihood; understand the existing value chains of utility of Cinnamon species and evaluating the prospects for green-labeling and promoting sustainable harvest.
3. Standardization of nursery techniques, raising of large number of seedlings through participatory approaches and introducing it in to arecanut based agro forestry systems and in *bettaland*.
4. Efforts shall be made to establish a community led initiative to evolve a management authority for the cinnamon species or NTFP as a whole.

B. Project design and Participatory implementation

Project was designed after consultation with local communities especially with NTFP harvesters, VFCs, with scientists at College of Forestry and State Forest Department. Unscientific harvesting of Cinnamon resources especially leaf by the harvesters recruited by the contractors who have got tender to harvest the leaf was causing threat to the resources. Where as harvesting of only the mature fruits at right harvesting time by local harvesting communities could be less destructive. Identification of locations and trees for monitoring the harvesting impact on regeneration shall be done through

consultation with communities, State Forest Department, preliminary survey and through available literature. Assess the dependency on the resources and prospectus for green labeling would be done using different participatory approaches and after consultation with research institutes and processing industries. Establishing the nursery and cultivating would be done in association with VFCs, women groups, Forest Department and individual farmers.

C. Assessment of expected adverse impact of project activities on local communities

Since the project goal is to understand the impact of regeneration, promote sustainable harvest, nursery, planting and attempt for a better marketing channel no adverse impacts are envisaged.

D. Measures to assist the affected people

No such measures are required.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism

No such measures were taken. It is hoped that the project activities does not trigger any conflicts. However, the project implementation would be participatory and we will make all efforts to explain the out come of the project to local communities involved and to other project stakeholders.

Entire project would be participatory with local representatives from Village Forest Committees, Women Self Help Groups, State Forest Department, other NGOs and institutions like College of Forestry. The project objectives would be explained to them and project planning, activities and implementation shall be done with the involvement of these communities.

Project would not be an obstruction for day to day activities of surrounding communities, activities such as grazing, fuel wood collection. The project does not intend to acquire any land by fencing out the local communities. The intended project does not adversely affect the right of these communities and collection of any of the natural resources that they are legally entitled to do so.

Impact assessment of harvesting the resources on regeneration, socio-economic study especially to understand the dependency of local communities on the cinnamon resources and promoting sustainable harvest practices through participatory approaches would

leads to integrated approaches for better management practices. Standardizing the nursery techniques, promote domestication and assess the prospects for green labeling for better market facilities are envisaged for the benefit of communities and the resources.

Thus the entire project would not have any negative impact on the local communities.