

CONTRIBUTION OF NON-TIMBER-FOREST-PRODUCTS OF KANDYAN HOME GARDENS TO THE HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY: EVIDENCE FROM ATIPOLA VILLAGE IN MATALE DISTRICT

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Kandyan home gardens are regarded as traditional multi-specied agro forestry systems with a complex structure and multiple functions. Kandyan home gardens provide both timber-forest-products and non-timber-forest-products. This study focused on the non-timber forest product flows and diversity, their economic value and assessed the contribution of non-timber forest products to household economy in Atipola village in Matale District. A preliminary survey was conducted using fifty households to identify non-timber forest products flows in the first stage. Of them, twenty households were selected at random in the second stage to collect fortnightly data for a period of two months to assess economic value of non-timber forest products and their contribution to household economy. Data were analyzed with descriptive statistics and net value analysis. Economically important 19 vegetables, 10 leafy vegetables, 19 fruits, 4 medicinal plants and 9 spices were identified from the home gardens. The total net annual income contribution of home garden to the household income was Rs. 150,000. Of which, 47%, 33%, 7%, 6% and 5% consisted of spices, specified sources [coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), arecanut (*Areca catechu*), anthurium (*Anthurium andraeanum*), compost and betel (*Piper betle*)], fruits, fuelwood and value added products, respectively. The contribution of non-timber forest products to household income accounted for 35.53%. Accordingly, the contribution of non-timber forest products to the household economy of Kandyan Forest Gardens of Atipola village was significant, which was dominated by few spice varieties. Hence, drawing the attention into crop diversification would be important from the perspective of income sustainability.

Keywords: Household income, Kandyan home garden, Non-timber forest products