

National Workshop on NTFP Taxation Policies and Management New Delhi, 20–21 November 2006

Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) are critical to livelihoods of forest-dependent communities in India. They are also a mainstay for a large number of small to large-scale enterprises engaged in processing and/or trading of NTFP-based value added products (especially in food, medicine, aromatics and pharmaceutical sectors). On one hand the resources allocated for research and development (R&D) efforts aimed at making NTFP harvesting/processing sustainable are minimal (and declining); on the other hand, NTFPs and products derived from it are taxed heavily right from the stage of collection. Very little of the revenue from taxation of NTFPs and/or NTFP-based products gets ploughed back into programs that can enhance the productivity and sustainability of NTFP resources (and post-harvest value addition) to, in turn, enhance the well being of forest-dependent communities. Cess has been widely used as a mechanism to generate resources for pre-defined purposes. There is a possibility and need to develop a similar resource generation mechanism for NTFPs. However, it needs an analysis of several key economic, institutional and governance issues. The proposed national workshop will primarily focus on these issues.

Papers are invited for the following themes: (i) Current scenario of NTFP taxation policies and practices in India, (ii) Current level of revenue generation from economically significant NTFPs, (iii) Current level of R&D investments on NTFPs, (iv) R&D needs of the NTFP sector in India, (v) Analysis of current cess mechanisms – the Agriculture Produce Cess Fund and Highway Development Cess, (vi) Feasibility of an R&D Cess on NTFPs, (vii) Setting up priorities for sustainability of NTFPs, and institutional and regulatory needs for utilization of a potential NTFP Cess Fund.

Abstracts of papers not exceeding 350 words should reach ATREE by **30th September 2006**. Authors of the selected papers will be invited to participate in the workshop and ATREE will bear their travel expenses, boarding and lodging at the workshop venue. For abstract submission and further details write to:

Coordinator, NTFP Workshop, ATREE House, 431-432/D-22, Chhattarpur Hill, New Delhi 110 074
Ph: +91-11-2630 1044 Fax: +91-11-2630 1016 E-mail: yogesh@atree.org Website: www.atree.org

A workshop on Mechanical Behaviour of Systems at Small Length Scales – 2 5–9 February 2007

This workshop, a follow-up to the one conducted in January 2004, will cover the broad area of the mechanical response and reliability of materials in small volumes. In addition to traditional areas of fundamentals of thin films and interfaces, there will be emphasis this time on thermal barriers and MEMS. Internationally renowned experts will deliver lectures on conceptual fundamentals as well as on cutting edge research in areas that include the mechanics of deformation and fracture, experimental methods for the evaluation of reliability and mechanical properties, adhesion and finite element/atomistic modelling. This workshop is aimed at students, researchers and industrial practitioners who wish to develop their background in the general area of the mechanical behaviour of materials with small length scales with applications in coatings for thermal protection, wear resistance and cutting tools and in thin film devices and micromechanical systems.

For further information see <http://met.iisc.ernet.in/~workshop2/> or

Contact:

Prof. V. Jayaram

Department of Metallurgy

Indian Institute of Science

Bangalore 560 012

e-mail: qjayaram@met.iisc.ernet.in, workshop@met.iisc.ernet.in

Phone: (91)-80-2293 3243

Fax: (91)-80-2360 1198