Improvement of populations livelihoods through the development of micro-enterprises based on Non-Wood Forest Products

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Summary

- The Mediterranean basin: an hotspot of biodiversity
- Diversity of NWFP used in the Maghreb countries
- The Subregional workshop on livelihood improvement through the development of NWFPs based microenterprises in North Africa
- NWFPs value chain presented by countries
- The achievements
- The challenges
- The way forward
- FAO work on NWFPs in North Africa
The Mediterranean basin: an hotspot of biodiversity

- Strong altitudinal gradient
- Strong precipitation gradient
- Coexistence of different flora

→ High diversity
→ High level of endemism
→ Long history of providing services and goods
→ High risks (forest fire, urbanization, overexploitation, pests, drought...)

Cedars  Junipers  Oaks (holm, cork...)  Pines  Maquis, scrubland
Diversity of NWFP used in the Maghreb

- Aromatics
- Meds
- Cork
- Fibers (alfa, diss)
- Honey
- Carob
- Acorn
- Chestnut
- Oak moss
- Mushrooms
- Wild fruit
- Gums
- Resins
- Wild greens
- Etc.
Subregional Workshop on communities livelihood improvement through the development of NWFPs based microenterprises in North Africa

Organised by the FAO Subregional Office for North Africa and FAO Algeria, December 5th to 7th, Tunis

Binding together stakeholders and decisions makers from Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia

Sharing of experiences, collect success stories, debate of strengths and weaknesses of NWFPs valorisation in North Africa
NWFPs value chain presented:

- **Algeria**: Cork, Medicinal and aromatics plants (MAP)
- **Libya**: NWFPs potential
- **Mauritania**: Arabic gum, Jujube, Maera and baobab fruits, Cassia, henna, and Desmidorchis acutangula
- **Morocco**: Argan oil, rosemary
- **Tunisia**: Mastic tree oil, essential oil from rosemary and thyme
1. The achievements

- Great diversity of exploitable natural resources;
- Existence of regulatory frameworks and institutions responsible for NWFPs;
- Existence of strategies for the management and valorization of NWFPs;
- Existence of partnership and exchange (interprofessional councils, consortiums, agricultural development group, cooperatives, pastoral associations, collective councils...);
- Existence of financing and support mechanisms for the creation of small businesses (youth and women);
- Existence of technical cooperation projects to support NWFPs (especially with FAO);
- Important role of scientific research in generating and diffusing knowledge;
2. The challenges

- Be the lever of integrated development in forest areas;
- Contribute to the significant improvement of living conditions and food security in rural areas;
- Consolidate the sustainable management of natural forest resources;
- Strengthen the regulatory framework of NWFPs management, exploitation and valorization;
- Fill in the knowledge gap on existing resources, ecology and phenology of NWFPs;
- Consolidate sustainably the mechanisms of access to forest resources for local population.
Next steps

- Boost the promotion of micro-enterprises
- Strengthen value chains
- Create an incentive environment for a better contribution of NWFPs in food security and inclusive rural development
- Improve knowledge about the potential of NWFPs, their exploitation, regeneration and nutritional value
- Participants solicited FAO support for the development of a subregional TCP project
FAO projects on NWFPs:

Regional Workshop on the Valorization of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in the Maghreb Countries
(December 10, 2015)

Training of Trainers Workshop on Stone Pine and Carob tree grafting techniques
(INRF, 16th and 17th November 2016)
FAO projects on NWFPs:

**Integrated rehabilitation of productive landscape of cork oak forest in Algeria:**
- The umbrella NWFP: the cork
- The babies: mastic tree, rosemary, honey...

**First Study on the use of oak acorns of in the preparation of couscous bil balloutin in Jijel, Algeria:**
- Unique savoir-faîre using tannin rich cork oak acorns
- A direct contribution of Forest ecosystems to food security and nutrition
- Interesting nutritional profile
FAO projects on NWFPs:

An ongoing TCP on NWFPs-based forest Micro-enterprises development in Algeria: case of rosemary, carob tree and stone pine

- Using various tools developed by FAO on Market Analysis & Development approach for integrated value chains
- Eventually explore the domestication of wild species with high economic potential
NWFPs: a transversal domain

Ranging from ecology, biology to ethnosociology and gender issue, through nutrition and marketing the development of NWFP needs the inclusion of all partners, local and international, to share knowledge and experiences and build together sustainable models of development.

SDGs:

1: No Poverty, 2: Zero hunger,
3: Gender, 8: Decent work,
13: Climate change, 15: Life on Land
Thank you - Merci - شكرا