

Analyzing the Cultural Utilities of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP's) among the Tribes of Western Attappady in Kerala

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ABSTRACT The indigenous communities residing near to the forest areas depended on the forest resources for sustaining their livelihood. An attempt to document the level of dependency of the tribes in Western Attappady (Irula, Muduga and Kurumba) on Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) was done through this study. Pre-tested questionnaire survey and semi-structured interview was conducted in the randomly selected one hundred and fifty households. The tribal communities made use of 52 NTFPs, among them 17 NTFPs were used as food, 19 NTFPs as medicine, 6 NTFPs for religious ceremonies and 20 NTFPs collected as a source of income. The Kurumba community settled in the interior areas of the forest has utilized more number of NTFPs than the other two tribal communities settled in the fringe areas of the forest.