

Livelihood Systems of Tribal Farmers in Andhra Pradesh

G Swathi, P Rambabu, T Gopikrishna, D Vishnu Sankar Rao and V Srinivasa Rao

Department of Agricultural Extension, Agricultural College, Bapatla 522 101, Andhra Pradesh

ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to examine the livelihood systems of tribal farmers in three districts of Andhra Pradesh i.e. Visakhapatnam, Chittoor and Khammam. Most of the households earn a living by maintaining a diversified livelihood pattern i.e., farming, forest based activities, Livestock and wage employment. Majority (77.50%) of the tribal farmers were involved in Agriculture + Livestock + wage work + Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) followed by Agriculture + wage work (11.67%), Agriculture + Livestock + wage work (8.33%) and Agriculture alone (2.50%). 62.09 per cent of the tribal farmers in the study area are having medium level of livelihood followed by high (20.83%) and low (17.08%) level of livelihood.. Tribes in the study area uses the forests as sources of firewood, housing materials, medical herbs, grazing their cattle, etc. A well structured and pre tested interview schedule was used to collect data. The statistics employed for data analysis were simple frequency and percentage. A strategy in this study was conceived as a plan of action in order to empower the tribal farmers and sensitize the development agencies for greater contribution for improving livelihood.

Key words: Livelihood systems, NTFPs, Tribal farmers.