

Evaluation of developments in the understanding of management of non-wood forest products in Turkey

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Abstract: In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in non-wood forest products due to sustainable forest management principles, Turkey's rich biological diversity, broad cultural heritage and economic potential. NWFP both contribute to country's economy and provide to rural development of people that living in rural areas. In 1987, General Directorate of Forestry published "Diagnosis and Presentation Guide of Some Important Forest Products in Turkey" for the diagnosis of non-wood forest products. At the Rio Conference held in 1992, with drawn attention to biological diversity NWFP were started to be used as a parameter in forest management plans. In 1995, the harvesting, transporting and selling process of non-wood forest products determined by general instructions which is named of "production and sales principles of forest wood products". Since 2000, instead of forest secondary products concept, non wood forest product (NWFP) has been used. Together with the international processes in the world, GDF was restructured with the taking importance of NWFP in Turkey. In addition, an online inventory tracking system was established to determine the distribution areas, production quantity and wealth of NWFP in 2013. International symposiums, congresses and meetings were held in order to examine and develop the social, technical and economic dimension of NWFP's in Turkey, with the participation of academicians from various parts of the world. Thus, awareness for NWFP's was tried to be established. Today, studies on NWFP contribute to the development of our forestry, and it is very important to open new study areas for our people that living in rural areas. As a result of this, an independent Non-Wood Products and Services Department was established within GDF. In this study, the developments experienced in NWFP were evaluated in the historical process in Turkey. In terms of forestry sector, the importance of NWFP business is emphasized. Also, within the scope of NWFP business, experienced bottlenecks have been handled from administrative, technical and economic aspects and solutions were proposed for these problems.

Keywords: NWFP, Sustainable forest management, Bottlenecks, Online inventory tracking system, Secondary product