

## **Scope of Micro Finance in the Development of NTFP Based Activities: Case Studies from Madhya Pradesh**

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This study was conceptualized with the belief that if forest dwellers are provided access to micro finance for acquiring logistics and adding value to available NTFPs, then sustainable livelihoods can be assured to them. The basic objective of the study were, thus, to investigate the scope of micro finance in the upliftment of forest dwellers through NWFP value addition, documentation of micro-finance activities and exploring the scope of micro-enterprises and the quantum of micro-finance required. Sheopur, Mandsaur and Katni District of Madhya Pradesh were included for 3 case studies. Study included collection of income, expenditure and micro-finance related primary data from forest dwellers, local traders (NWFP traders and growers) and moneylenders. Discussions were also held with bankers, NGO representatives, academicians and staff of Forest and Rural Development Departments and the Madhya Pradesh Minor Forest Produce Co-operative Federation, Bhopal. The study lead to review and documentation of the existing Micro-finance related and Non Wood Forest Produce based activities in the area, and explored the existing linkages between the two. It also presented an implementable framework for dovetailing micro-finance and NWFP activities in the forested areas of the State, for sustainable rural livelihoods development. The case studies constituting the overall study have been compiled and published in the form of a comprehensive report.