



NWFP in Serbia: Status, opportunities and challenges

Vladimir Nikolić

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management



Brief history

- Collection, processing and trade of NWFP in Serbia has a long tradition
- Significant revenues from NWFP in period after World War II - until 1990
- Process of collecting and trading was centralized – Public enterprises
- Process of privatization of Public enterprises – emerging of SMEs



Significance

- Non-wood forest products (NWFPs) appear as a raw material base for a whole range of final products used in the pharmaceutical, food industry, etc.
- Also, in parallel with the expansion of organic production, the market importance of NTFPs has drastically increased,
- In the area of the statistical region of Belgrade, the most represented are medicinal herbs, forest fruits and mushrooms.



Law on forests

Other forest products

Article 62

Collection of other forest products (forest fruits, medicinal and other plants, use of stone, sand, gravel, humus, as well as beekeeping, etc.) can be done with the approval of the user, i.e. forest owner, and in accordance with the Project of using other forest products.



Possible issues

- Collection of NWFP defined by legislation of Nature protection sector
 - ✓ Law on nature Protection
 - ✓ Regulation on the proclamation and protection of strictly protected and protected wild species of plants, animals and fungi
 - ✓ Bylaw on control of use and trade of wild flora and fauna
- Commission for Approving quotas for collecting NWFP
- Licenses issued by Ministry of Environmental Protection – could be an issue!



Current status

- Mainly used by local population
- Pickers should undergo training for collection
- Mostly mushrooms, berries, wild fruits, and herbs
- No quotas for collecting of NWFP by individuals
- Quotas only for buyers and processors



Collection and processing

- Most of SMEs located in urban areas
- Significant number located in villages
- Mostly from 11 to 50 employees (during season)
- Most of them established after 1991
- Deals with mushrooms, berries and wild fruits
- Conditions for business mainly determined by weather conditions
- Price is variable depending on the balance of supply and demand through the year,



Challenges

- Unsustainable utilisation
- Illegal harvesting – especially truffles
- Climate change
- Degradation of forest ecosystems



Opportunities

- The influence of climate change
 - ✓ the forestry profession should rely more strongly on the multifunctional character of the resources
 - ✓ use all its products and services on a lasting basis
- The more intensive use of NWFP and services
 - ✓ opens the possibility of developing small, small and medium-sized enterprises,
 - ✓ can stimulate the economic development of rural areas



Policy actions from WP most relevant for Serbia

- Securing the conservation and sustainable supply of NWFP – Second NFI
- Transparency, data and information flow on NWFP
- Enabling conditions

***Uti, non abuti* – Use, but not abuse!**



THANK YOU!