The Contribution of the Underutilised Species in the Walnut-Fruit Forests to the Local Livelihoods in Kyrgyzstan

Klara Dzhakypbekova 1, Zhamilia Sulaimanova 2, Cholponai Nurudolot Kyzy 1, Jydysh Shigaeva 1, Dietrich Dann 1, Heinz-Peter Wolff 2
1Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences, Germany
2University of Central Asia, Mountain Societies Research Institute, Kyrgyzstan

1. Background and introduction

The national forest trend in Kyrgyzstan considers the world’s largest remaining area of the forest habitats. The data (as of 2017) showed that the share of forest habitats in the country is estimated at 21.8%. The data also revealed that the share of species utilized in forest habitats is very low (0.6%).

Key findings: the use of the underutilized species

2. Methods and tools

Among the local villages the Kyzyl-Ata village was selected as a result of an expert group discussion. A stratified random sampling was used to select 100 sample households in this village. The household survey took place between July and November 2018. The survey included questions about the utilization of forest habitats, the collection of forest products, and their marketing.

3. Previous findings: the use of the underutilized species

The table shows that in comparison to the earlier periods underutilized species perform better in local forests, especially in Kyrgyzstan. These species are more diverse and are better used by the local population. The table also shows that the utilization of underutilized species is still limited, and their potential is not yet fully exploited.

4. Discussion

A) According to the cluster analysis three strategies were delineated based on the survey.

5. Conclusion and recommendations

1. The regression model suggested that the underutilized NTFPs (UNTFPs) tend to be collected more in those sample households with an increase in forest area, income from forest production, pension can and wild apple collection. Farmers who don’t have an agreement with the forest as well as farmers who encountered difficulties in forest access also tended to collect more UNTFPs.

2. With those factors a membership in a cooperative was significant correlated with higher amounts of such species collected. It is important to improve such cooperatives as those are shown to provide an access maintenance of forest knowledge and traditions in the local setting.

3. Without making the primary contribution to the local livelihoods (i.e. 96% of the households), while apples contribute to 19% of the surveyed households. The survey showed 19% of the interviewed farmers collected such products, mainly the “entrepreneurial” strata as shown in the cluster analysis:

References

1. Agroeco (2016) (Draft)•
2. IAS-DEG (2015)•
3. SRTK (2015)•
4. TUM (2015)•
5. UNCTAD (2015)•
6. WDB (2015)•

Contact: Klara Dzhakypbekova, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, E-mail: klara.dzhakypbekova@hochschule-rhein-waal.de

Acknowledgements
The project is financially supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), which we gratefully acknowledge.
Poster presented at the Tropentag conference, 17 - 19, September, 2018, Ghent, Belgium