**Abstract**

There has been increasing interest in the contribution of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) livelihood strategies to rural development and poverty alleviation in recent years. However, community dependence on forest resources for diverse use has high implications for long term management of forests. Sustainable harvesting of NTFPs is considered best feasible strategy for forest conservation in biodiversity rich areas. This paper examines the factors that influence rural households’ decision to go into the forest to collect mopane worms and the actual quantities that the household who decides to collect mopane worms subsequently obtained from the forest. The study used a cross sectional dataset collected from a survey of 120 households in Limpopo province, South Africa, using the Double Hurdle Model for the analysis. The result of the study indicated that age, gender, education, household size, livestock ownership, price, social capital and insecurity influence households’ decision-making to collect mopane worm. While, household age, gender, education, household size, experience, skill, livestock ownership, price, ineffective local institution/law, social capital and distance are statistically significant factors influencing the quantity of mopane worm collected in the study area. Implications for policy were discussed.

**Keywords:** NTFPs, mopane worm, collection, livelihood, conservation, Double Hurdle, South Africa