

Chhattisgarh gets 10 national awards for procurement, processing and marketing of forest produce

09 August 2021

Chhattisgarh has got national awards in eight sub-categories for its excellent performance in procurement, processing and marketing of minor forest produces and for implementation of Van Dhan Yojana under Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's leadership, a government statement said.

Two awards were conferred upon the state for new products and innovations. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (TRIFED) announced these awards based on states' performance.

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda presented these awards to Chhattisgarh virtually on August 6. Minor forest produce collection in the state is being done by the Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Association.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel congratulated state Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar, and all officials and employees of the Forest Department, Chhattisgarh State Forest Produce Association, forest committees and self-help groups engaged in the collection and processing of forest produce, for this achievement.

Chhattisgarh has bagged the first prize for:

- Inclusion of maximum forest produce under the Minimum Support Price scheme for minor forest produce in 2020-21
- Procurement of minor forest produce at the highest price from the state government's and Central government's funds
- Maximum utilisation of funds sanctioned in 2020-21
- Completion of maximum surveys under Van Dhan Yojana
- Maximum training for forest development clusters
- Manufacturing maximum products through value addition
- Maximum sale of products after value addition

Besides, under the 'new product and innovation category', Chhattisgarh was awarded for the innovative manufacturing of sanitiser from Mahua and for producing new products from tamarind, the statement said.

Under the awards announced by TRIFED, Chhattisgarh has secured the first prize for including the maximum number of new forest products under the Minimum Support Price Scheme for Minor Forest Produce in 2020-21.

52 types of minor forest products have been included under the Minimum Support Price Scheme. The second prize in this category has been awarded to Maharashtra, whose 21 forest produces have been included under this scheme.

Chhattisgarh has also secured the first prize for procurement of minor forest produce at maximum value, utilising the funds sanctioned by the government of India.

Minor forest produces worth Rs 180.51 crore have been procured under this scheme in Chhattisgarh. Andhra Pradesh is being awarded the second prize in this category for procurement of forest produces worth Rs 4.51 crore. Similarly, for procurement of minor forest produces from the Central government's and the state government's funds, Chhattisgarh will be awarded the first prize for procurement of forest produce worth Rs.1173 crore, whereas the second prize will be awarded to Orissa for procurement of minor forest produce worth Rs.30.32 crore.

In the category of maximum utilisation of funds till 2020-21, Chhattisgarh will be given the first prize for utilisation of Rs 127.09 crore and the second prize will be given to Orissa for utilisation of Rs 30.32 crore.

For completing maximum surveys under Van Dhan Yojana, Chhattisgarh will be given the first prize and Nagaland will be given the second prize.

In the category of providing maximum training to Van Dhan Vikas Kendra clusters, Chhattisgarh will be awarded the first prize and Nagaland will be awarded the second prize.

In the category of manufacturing maximum products through value-addition, Chhattisgarh will be given the first prize for manufacturing 121 products, and Maharashtra will be given the second prize for 120 products.

Similarly, Chhattisgarh will be given the first prize for the sale of products worth Rs 4.24 crore, and Manipur will be given the second prize for the sale of products worth Rs 1.98 crore, under the category of maximum sale of products after value addition.

Under the category of new products and innovations, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra will be jointly awarded for the production of sanitisers from Mahua. Besides, Chhattisgarh is being awarded for the innovation of forest produce product 'Tamarind Chaska'.

CHHATTISGARH'S PLAN FOR FOREST DWELLERS

Roughly 44% of the area in Chhattisgarh is covered in forests, and the major source of livelihood for forest dwellers here is the collection of forest produce. The state government is procuring 52 minor forest produces instead of seven, and has also increased the support price to provide a fair value for the products to the collectors.

More than 6 lakh forest produce collectors are being benefitted under the scheme. For the last two years, Chhattisgarh has maintained the top rank for the procurement of forest produces. These forest produces are being procured through 4,785 women self-help groups in the state. As a result of the increased number of forest produces procured and also the increase in minimum support price, more than 13 lakh poor and tribal people engaged in minor forest produce collection are earning an additional income of Rs 501.70 crore per annum.

As many as 139 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras established in the state for primary processing of minor forest produces and nearly 17 thousand 424 beneficiaries are being benefitted through these centres.

70 of these Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are engaged in processing minor forest produces as herbal products. And these products of 'Chhattisgarh Herbals' are also available for sale on the platforms like Amazon.

"Chhattisgarh Herbals" has been established as a nationwide brand in 2021-22, and the herbal products are being sold across the country. A target has been set to sell products worth Rs 10 crore in 2021-22. This will benefit about 5,000 members of women self-help groups engaged in the processing work.

Source:<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/chhattisgarh-gets-10-national-awards-for-procurement-processing-and-marketing-of-forest-produce-1838806-2021-08-09>