

MEDPINE 5 - Dynamic session 2

THE USE OF MEDITERRANEAN PINE FORESTS FOR NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTION

The session was moderated by Jose Antonio BONET (University of Lleida, Spain) and Sven MUTKE (INIA-CIFOR, Spain). After a brief introduction about the format and the aim of the session, we made a round of participants reviewing the relevance, current state, problems and challenges of different pinewood NWFP in each country.

In Spain and Portugal, there has been a long tradition of non-wood forest products and multipurpose forestry, namely for silvopastoralism, food from forests and agroforestry (incl. pine nuts), resin, corks and barks (formerly including pine bark for tannery), formerly litter, medicinal and aromatic herbs and berries from soil or understory, etc. In both countries, especially resin tapping and pine cone harvesting for Mediterranean pine nuts, as well as cork from cork oak, are plainly integrated in sustainable forest management planning, often from mixed pine-oak stands, and they have developed industries and value chains. On the other hand, picking edible mushrooms, although a long tradition in some regions like Catalonia or inner Spain for self-consumption has had only a recent, though huge, development in other areas with different cultural roots, like the *Celtic West* of the Iberian Peninsula (Portugal, Galicia, León). Currently, “mushroom hunting” is a trendy social phenomenon, associated with local “myco-tourism”, and also commercial exploitation of existing, formerly non-used fungal resources and value-chain development for exportation is increasing, not limiting to black truffle.

In Northern Italy, amount of NWFP renders a higher turnover than timber, with especial relevance of many niche products and embedded products that follow other market rules than the economy of scale for mass products. The *Toscana model* of high quality rural development, joining *territorial marketing* with a kind of regional brand, product and service associations (tourism, gastronomy, welfare, landscape, recreation, culture), might be feasible to be developed in many areas of other Mediterranean countries.

Also reports from Tunisia, Algeria, Maroc, Turkey or Lebanon underlined the function and relevance of pine forests for local economies. Among non-wood products, omnipresent grazing apart, are namely pine nuts (including even Aleppo pine seeds in Tunisia), and aromatic or medicinal herbs. Problems of tenure or governance, value chain development, trade regulation, etc. are similar in many countries.

A special case might be the example of pine honey in Greece and Turkey, produced by bees collecting honeydew produced on *P. brutia* by plant-sucking aphids. Tree honey represents about the half of total honey production of these countries.

From the Southern hemisphere, finally, references came up about the lately pushing Mediterranean stone pine plantations for pine nuts production in Chile, in forestry, as well as in agroforestry systems or intensive managed orchards.

References were given in this session also to the European COST Action FP1203 “European non-wood forest products (NWFPs) network” and the European Research Project StarTree “Multipurpose trees and non-wood forest products a challenge and opportunity”.

