

## **Exploitation of Non-Timber Forest Produce- Ecological Concerns**

**Jesurathnam, Deverapalli and R. Yathiraj Kumar**

*Department of Anthropology, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam 530 003, Andhra Pradesh,  
India*

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**ABSTRACT** The hunting-gathering Chenchus of Nallamalai forest subsist on a variety of wild tubers, berries, leaves, honey and on flesh of the game animals. Under the changing condition as the hunting-gathering is being relinquished by Chenchus, the exploitation of non-timber forest produce (NTFP) has gained importance. The NTFP exploitation for commercial purpose is a recent endeavor at the instance of outside forces. With the improved marketing facilities through the Girijan Cooperatives Corporation Ltd., providing attractive procurement prices the NTFP exploitation is profoundly augmented. The indiscriminate exploitation of NTFP has endangered certain species which would in the long run affect the biodiversity of the microenvironment.