

## The Agroforest Model as an Alternative to the Pure Plantation Model for Domestication and Commercialization of NTFP's.

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### ABSTRACT

NTFP exploitation has recently emerged as a promising alternative to timber extraction in natural forest management. The domestication and commercialization of these NTFPs tend to emerge as an alternative strategy to their extraction from natural forests.

Incorporating NTFPs in production systems is not a new practice in the tropics. Various forms of agroforestry associations have developed around NTFPs and form the very basis of a suite of indigenous agricultures. This agroforestry path to domestication is not commonly considered, in spite of an increasing amount of academic interest in indigenous forest-like plantation models. Furthermore, it is only in recent years that agroforestry research is considering the prospects of these indigenous systems for forest species. To date, nothing in terms of species improvement for instance, has been done towards the integration of NTFPs into a multistrata/multispecies system, although these are important considerations that need to be taken into account.

In Southeast Asia, and particularly in Indonesia, complex agroforestry systems for the management of forest resources have been developed for centuries by local people ranging from the production of locally consumed fruits to highly valuable industrial products, such as resins and latexes. This agroforest pathway is presented here as an elaborate process of total transfer, of both selected forest resources and a true forest structure from the sphere of "nature" to "agriculture". This process can thus be analysed as a particular domestication strategy which could integrate conventional species domestication techniques -selection, reproduction and plantation practices- to an original form of ecosystem "domestication". Prospects for further developing this "agroforest strategy" for the domestication of forest species, particularly NTFPs are then discussed.

The social, economic and institutional implications of such an integration of NTFP resources to agricultural development, are also analyzed, based on various examples of agroforest development and focusing on the efficiency of this "appropriation" strategy by smallholder farmers, for the acquisition of forest riches.