



DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regn. No.20474/92. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)

Head Office: 20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata - 70015. Phone & FAX: 033-23283989 e-mail: dmfwestbengal@gmail.com

No. DMF/Pres/ 08/21

January 13, 2021

To
The APCCF & Director,
Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR),
Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake,
West Bengal.

Sub: Recognition of the right of wild honey collectors to freely sale honey in open market and enhancement of the rate of collection of honey by forest department to Rs.300/- kg.

Sir,

We are given to understand that like every year the SBR authorities are again going to issue passes to wild honey collectors and announce price for wild honey collected by them with the condition that they will have to deliver all collected honey to the forest authorities. We have also noted that while the honey collectors can get the price of the honey at Rs. 250/- to Rs. 300/- per Kg. in the open market, the Forest Department offers them Rs. 180/- per kg. in 2019.

In this regard, we are constrained to state once again that –

- A. After the passage of the 'The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 the "right of ownership, access to collect, and dispose of minor forest produce" rests with the forest dwellers and not with the Forest Department, and honey is a minor forest produce;
- B. By the clarification provided by Ministry of Tribal Affairs under intimation to all State Governments the people not residing inside the forest but dependent on the forest for their livelihood are also to be considered as forest dwellers. The clarification contained in Ministry's circular letter no.17014/02/2007-PC&V (Vol. VII) dt. 9.6.2008 states "**such Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who are not necessarily residing inside the forest but are depending on the forest for their *bona fide* livelihood needs would be covered under the definition of "forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes" and "other traditional forest dwellers" as given in sections 2(c) and 2(o) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006"**

Doc No
13/01/2021
SUNDARBAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE
WILD HONEY COLLECTORS



DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regn. No.20474/92. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)

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It may be mentioned here that the wild honey collectors were not provided with any permit in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, neither they were offered any relief by the Forest Department, though the Forest Department uses the honey collectors for honey collection every year.

In view of the above we demand that –

1. The wild honey collectors be allowed to sell honey collected by them in the open market;
2. The minimum price offered by the Forest Department for collected wild honey be raised to Rs. 300/- per Kg. and there be no compulsion of the honey collectors to give their collected honey to the Forest Department.

We request you and your Department to abide by the law of the country.

In anticipation of an early response from your end.

Yours sincerely,

Gobinda Das

Gobinda Das
Secretary,
Sundarban Matsyajibi Joutha Sangram Committee.

Pradip Chatterjee

Pradip Chatterjee
President,
Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum.



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Head Office: 20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata - 70015. Phone & FAX: 033-23283989 e-mail: dmfwestbengal@gmail.com

No. DMF/Pres/ 07/21

January 13, 2021

To
The Chief Minister,
Government of West Bengal,
Nabanna, Howrah,
West Bengal.

Sub: Recognition of the right of wild honey collectors to freely sale honey in open market and enhancement of the rate of collection of honey by forest department to Rs.300/- per kg.

Respected Madam,

We are given to understand that like every year the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR) authorities are going to issue passes to wild honey collectors and announce price for collected wild honey with the condition that they will have to deliver all collected honey to the forest authorities. We have also noted that while the honey collectors can get the price of the honey at Rs. 250/- to Rs. 300/- per kg. in the open market, the Forest Department offered them. Rs 180 /- per kg. in 2019.

In this regard, we are constrained to state that –

- A. After the passage of the 'The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 the "right of ownership, access to collect, and dispose of minor forest produce" rests with the forest dwellers and not with the Forest Department, and honey is a minor forest produce;
- B. By the clarification provided by Ministry of Tribal Affairs under intimation to all State Governments the people not residing inside the forest but dependent on the forest for their livelihood are also to be considered as forest dwellers. The clarification contained in Ministry's circular letter no.17014/02/2007-PC&V (Vol. VII) dt. 9.6.2008 states "such Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who are not necessarily residing inside the forest but are depending on the forest for their *bona fide* livelihood needs would be covered under the definition of "forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes" and "other traditional forest dwellers" as given in sections 2(c) and 2(o) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006"

<Dial 18002666868> <Wear Mask & Stay Safe>

भारतीय डाक

EW386299976IN IVR:6987384299976
SP GOBINDA KHATICK ROAD S.O <7000 India Post
Counter No:1,13/01/2021,11:49
To:SHRI A MUNDA,HONO MINISTER
PIN:110001, New Delhi GPO
From:P CHATTERJEE,20/4 SIL LANE
Wt:15gms
Amt:41.30(Cash)Tax:6.30



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Head Office: 20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata – 70015. Phone & FAX: 033-23283989 e-mail: dmfwestbengal@gmail.com

It may be mentioned here that the wild honey collectors were not provided with any permit in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, neither they were offered any relief by the Forest Department, though the Forest Department uses the honey collectors for honey collection every year.

In view of the above we demand that –

1. The wild honey collectors be allowed to sell honey collected by them in the open market;
2. The minimum price offered by the Forest Department for collected wild honey be raised to Rs. 300/- per kg. and there be no compulsion of the honey collectors to give their collected honey to the Forest Department.

We request you to ensure that the Forest Department abides by the law of the country and provides the wild honey collectors of Sundarban with their legitimate rights and entitlements.

In anticipation of an early response from your end.

Yours sincerely,

Gobinda Das

Gobinda Das
Secretary,
Sundarban Matsyajibi Joutha Sangram Committee.

Pradip Chatterjee

Pradip Chatterjee
President,
Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum.



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Head Office: 20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata – 70015. Phone & FAX: 033-23283989 e-mail: dmfwestbengal@gmail.com

No. DMF/Pres/ 05/21

January 13, 2021

Shri Arjun Munda,
Hon'ble Minister,
Ministry of Tribal Affairs,
7th Floor, A-Wing.
Shastri Bhavan,
New Delhi – 110001.

Sub: Recognition of the right of wild honey collectors to freely sale honey in open market and enhancement of the rate of collection of honey by forest department to Rs.300/- per kg.

Sir,

This is to understand that like every year the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR) authorities are again going to issue passes to wild honey collectors and announce price for wild honey collected by them with the condition that they will have to deliver all collected honey to the forest authorities. We have also noted that while the honey collectors can get the price of the honey at Rs. 250/- to Rs. 300/- per kg. in the open market, the Forest Department offered them Rs. 180/- per Kg. in 2019.

In this regard, we are constrained to state that –

- After the passage of the 'The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 the "right of ownership, access to collect, and dispose of minor forest produce" rests with the forest dwellers and not with the Forest Department, and honey is a minor forest produce;
- By the clarification provided by Ministry of Tribal Affairs under intimation to all State Governments the people not residing inside the forest but dependent on the forest for their livelihood are also to be considered as forest dwellers. The clarification contained in Ministry's circular letter no.17014/02/2007-PC&V (Vol. VII) dt. 9.6.2008 states "**such Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who are not necessarily residing inside the forest but are depending on the forest for their *bona fide* livelihood needs would be covered under the definition of "forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes" and "other traditional forest dwellers" as given in sections 2(c) and 2(o) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006"**

<Dial 18002664868> <Wear Masks, Stay Safe>

भारतीय डाक



EW386299857IN IVR:6987384299857
SP GOBINDA KHATICK ROAD S.O. <70015>

Counter No:1,13/01/2021,11:49

To:M BANERJEE,HON CHIEF MINIST

PIN:711102, Sibpur SO

From:P CHATTERJEE,20/4 SIL LANE

11/19



DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regn. No.20474/92. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)

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In view of the above we demand that –

1. The wild honey collectors be allowed to sell honey collected by them in the open market;
2. The minimum price offered by the Forest Department of Government of West Bengal for collected wild honey be raised to Rs. 300/- per kg. and there be no compulsion of the honey collectors to give their collected honey to the Forest Department.

We request you to ensure that the Forest Department abides by the law of the country and provides the wild honey collectors of Sundarban with their legitimate rights and entitlements.

In anticipation of an early response from your end.

Yours sincerely,

Gobinda Das
Secretary,
Sundarban Matsyajibi Joutha Sangram Committee.

Pradip Chatterjee
President,
Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum.



DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regs. No.2047492. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)
Head Office: 204, 5/1 Lane, Kolkata - 700017. Phone: 2213 219, 2213222. E-mail: dakshinbanga@rediffmail.com

No. DMF/Pres/ 06/21

January 13, 2021

To
The Field Director,
Sundarban Tiger Reserve,
Canning, South 24 Parganas,
West Bengal.

Sub: Recognition of the right of wild honey collectors to freely sale honey in open market and enhancement of the rate of collection of honey by forest department to Rs.300/- per kg.

Sir,

We are given to understand that like every year the SBR authorities are again going to issue passes to wild honey collectors and announce price for wild honey collected by them with the condition that they will have to deliver all collected honey to the forest authorities. We have also noted that while the honey collectors can get the price of the honey at Rs. 250/- to Rs. 300/- per kg. in the open market, the Forest Department offered them Rs. 180/- per kg. in 2019.

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Trade Union Regn. No. 20474/92. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)
Head Office: 30/5, 50/1, 4/6, Kolkata - 70013. Phone & Fax: 811-22181892. e-mail: dmf@rediffmail.com

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Secretary,
Sundarban Matsyajibi Jostha Sangram Committee.

Pradip Chatterjee

Pradip Chatterjee
President,
Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum.

Received Contents Not Verified

13/01/21
Head Clerk

Sundarban Tiger Reserve
Canning, 24 Pgs. (S)