

Mountain non-timber forest resources of Georgia And geographical characteristics of their usage

Teona Kobalia

e-mail: teona.kobalia636@ens.tsu.edu.ge

Abstract

The topic actuality is related to non-timber forest products and the possibilities of receiving income from them. Republic of Georgia is rich with forest resources, although timber has been staying in the spotlight for a long time. A high variety of non-timber forest products (NFTPs) can be found in Georgian forests, which have nutritional, medical, decorative and other values. One of the most significant resources would be wild fruit trees in the areas where people used to live, but have left their homesteads. Market studies in Europe reveal that there is high demand in natural, best-known as “bio” products that can be found in Georgian forests and that can become important income source for the local population.

Project will play a part in researching Georgian non-timber forests from this viewpoint. NFTPs could have a positive impact on socio-economic stability of the rural population. Research will be carried out to identify types of non-timber forest resources, characteristics of their geographical distribution and application possibilities. Solving following problems related to research:

1. To study types of non-timber forest resources and identify their importance for different economies;
2. Types of forest non-timber resources their features will be identified ;
3. Local and international business interests towards non-timber forest resources will be surveyed and evaluated;

4. Interests and capacity of local population (Mtskheta-Mtianeti) to harvest non-timber forest resources and distribute them will be evaluated through sociological survey and analysis.

Project will help with the development of other economic fields (including food industry) that in turn will bolster the socio-economic development in mountainous regions of Georgia and prevent population migration, which is a pressing challenge at the present time.