Forest area constitutes about 58,135 sq. km., which is 37.3 per cent of the entire landmass of Orissa according to 1991 census, against 59,963 sq. km. in 1981. This indicates a gradual decrease of the forest area. Scheduled tribe population of the state is 22.21 per cent of the total population, which is mostly concentrated in the scheduled areas. Kandhamal district is a scheduled area and its tribal population is more than 50 per cent of the total population. The population of the district is 54,628 and scheduled tribe population constitutes 28,138 as per 1991 census. The people of the agency tracts and specially the scheduled tribe people depend on the forest in several ways in their day-to-day life. Being below the poverty line and landless, the main source of income of the tribal is collection of different forest produce, earning wage by collecting bamboo and timber for the leaseholders. Due to their age-old tradition, custom and intimate interaction with the nature, the tribes have evolved their own methods of conservation, protection and utilization of the plants and trees grown in the forest. But growth in their population and influx of people from the plains into the agency tracts, largescale practice of podu cultivation exerted tremendous pressure on the forest ecology and resulted decrease in the forest area. Since the pressure on the forestland is increasing and forest cover of Orissa is slowly decreasing, therefore proper management of forest produce is necessary to improve the present situation. The present study is an attempt at presenting a total picture of management of forest produce in Kandhamal,
which is a tribal district of Orissa, keeping in view their socio-economic change and demographic impact. It is also an endeavour to access the success and failure of different state legislations to protect the interest of tribals by saving them from the clutches of the middlemen and to suggest suitable corrective measures to check the **vicious circle** of exploitation that is mainly responsible for the economic backwardness of the tribals.

The present work concentrates mainly on the management of and restrictions imposed to check the freedom of the Adivasis to use the forest produce in a tribal area of Orissa. Though they are poor and illiterate, they know about the sustainable use of forest produces as they consider forest growth around them to be their own property. The tribals of Orissa are still underdeveloped, illiterate and live in perpetual indebtedness. Their indebtedness forces them to serve as bonded labour under the village moneylender. The tribals, who are a happy-go-lucky lot, are normally lethargic and engage themselves in unproductive work. Addiction to alcohol, which is socially acceptable to them, is another important cause, responsible for their indebtedness and poverty. It is revealed that the collection of forest produce and marketing is done mostly by the women folk.

The present study is based on the data collected from the sample villages of Kandhamal district of Orissa and concerned government departments of the state. District level officials and state sponsored agencies like Orissa Forest Development Corporation, Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation of Orissa Ltd., Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India
engaged in the field of management of forest produce to maximise its benefits
to the tribal primary collectors. Personal interviews and discussions with tribal
representatives at the panchayat level, forest officials, co-operative authorities,
non-government agencies have been made for realistic assessment of the
economic impact of the forest produce on the tribal economy. Finally, some
suggestions have been put forth which could be profitably referred to by the
planners and the policy makers whose main aim is to improve the economic
condition of tribals and side-by-side to conserve and utilize the forest resources
to the maximum extent possible.

The study is being presented in six chapters. Chapter - I touches the
tribal economy both at national and regional level and its changing scenario.
Chapter - II discusses about the management of forest resources in Orissa.
Chapter - III deals with a literature review, objectives, scope and research
design of the study. Chapter – IV defines the study area i.e. Kandhamala
district providing general information of the district and the forest zones from
historical, demographic, and economic viewpoints. The analysis of data
collected and the discussions have been presented in Chapter - V.
Chapter - VI contains summary, findings, suggestions and scope for further
study, which have been made for improvement in the management of forest
produce in the tribal areas of Orissa with particular reference to Kandhamal district.
It is hoped that the conclusions emerging from the study would be useful to the planners and policy makers involved in the management of forest and forest produces not only in Orissa but also elsewhere in India.

ANITA MOHAPATRA

ANITA MOHAPATRA