For centuries, rural and forest-based communities have relied on non-timber forest products for both subsistence use and as a source of income. Moreover, their close social, cultural and spiritual associations with NTFPs make these resources an integral part of their lives.

The NTFP Exchange Programme for South and Southeast Asia is a collaborative network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community based organisations in South and Southeast Asia. The network works with forest based communities to strengthen their capacity in sustainable management of natural resources. Over the years, the NTFP E has grown into a dynamic network, with over 40 partner organisations and major contacts in India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia.