**From Forest to Delhi: Tribal Foods of India**

Forest foods from 7 states to be featured in 8th CMS VATAVARAN: Environment and Wildlife Film Festival and Forum

**October 3rd, 2015, New Delhi**: To celebrate India's rich and vibrant bio-cultural heritage of tribal foods, indigenous forest people of our oldest surviving tribes from 7 states will be at the 8th CMS VATAVARAN, from 9th – 13th October, 2015 at NDMC Convention center New Delhi as part of the five day environment and wildlife film festival and forum. A unique effort to bring the 25 Adivasi farmers was carried out on a crowd funding online platform to raise funds for their travel from their respective states to New Delhi.

Variety of forest foods will be displayed for both exhibition and consumption during all 5 days of the film festival. Bridging the widening gap between the urban and tribal culture, organizations such as Beej Bachao Andolan’ [BBA], Nirman, Abhivyakti Foundation, **Vaagdhara** etc, are bringing culture of tribal communities through their food for Delhi’s public. Alongside the forest foods several tribal crafts from Nagaland and Jharkhand will also be put as exhibits.

An interaction for journalists and bloggers, 'Patrakaar-Chaupaal' with the participants has been organized on October 11th from 05:30 pm to 06:00 pm in the food court area.

Food items give invaluable insight into rich culture and life of the diverse tribal communities of India. Natural, safe and nutritious cultivated and uncultivated forest food brought by Adivasi and forest dependent communities from all over India will be one of the highlights of CMS VATAVARAN 2015.

**The food and other items from the representing states are given below-**

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| **State: Tribe/Community** | **Food / other items** |
| Uttarakhand Farmers | * Rajma Chawal * Jhongara Khir |
| **Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh**  Baiga and Pahari Korba tribes | * Khichdi of Organic red rice and Black gram * Khir of Kang (one of the millets) * Boiled wild tubers |
| **Jharkhand**  Pahariya and Santhals in the Giridih district | * Forest wild foods non-cooked (as exhibits) |
| **Nagaland** | * Ethnic textiles (as exhibits) * Local agro-biodiversity (as exhibits) |
| **Rajasthan**  Bhil | * Makke ki Roti * Bhindi Sabji * Kachra Sabji * Chancch * Mirchi ki Chatni |
| **Odisha**  Kondh | * Ragi ka halwa * Ragi porridge * Organic Rice & Dalma * Ragi Pokora, etc |
| Karnataka | * Gandhakshala rice- an aromatic variety of brown organic unpolished rice. ideal for pulav & biryani. * Turmeric * Coffee |

The main aim is to highlight the importance of forest foods and the ethos and worldviews linked to these for a large population of this land. Some of the groups, communities and organizations who will be part of the food festival are-

* The ‘Beej Bachao Andolan’ [BBA], is a twenty five year old, non-formal collective of small farmers and activists on **conserving and promoting indigenous seeds, agricultural practices and local traditions.** The andolan produces over 200 varieties of rajma, conserves traditional rice varieties and work towards revival of Baranaja.
* Nirman, a development organization based out of Mandla in Madhya Pradesh has been working with Baiga and Pahari Korba community on reviving the diversity of the traditional Bewar cultivation and conserving the vanishing land races that are used in Bewar cultivation .
* Abhivyakti Foundation has been working with Pahariya and Santhals in the Giridih district of Jharkhand on strengthening their local food systems.

## North East Network is women’s rights organization working in the states of Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland. NEN has been promoting and addressing a multiplicity of community based interventions related to agro biodiversity since its inception, in 1998.

* **Vaagdhara** is a non government organization  that works with Bhil communities on strengthening local food system, and revival of traditional agriculture in Rajasthan.
* Living Farms works with Kondh communities in Odisha. The traditional food system of Kondhs reflects their social meanings and ecological realities. They grow more than 50 crops and more than 200 folk varieties of paddy and collect more than 250 foods from forest.
* 'Poornam' is a social enterprise started by Meera & Rajesh - IT Consultants by profession. In last 16 years, they have a vast experience in managing and delivering large mission critical IT projects working with global clients. They were exposed to sustainable technologies at Auroville in year 2006. This gave a new direction to their lives and they started 'Poornam'. 'Poornam' aims at encouraging and spreading organic farming in Wayanad. Here, various varieties of traditional organic paddy, turmeric and coffee are grown adopting zero budget natural farming technologies with the local community. They have conserved close to 2000 Western Ghats endemic trees (100 different species) over the past 4 years.

A range of programmes such as film screenings, sessions on water issues, filmmaking workshops, eco trip to Yamuna Biodiversity Park for school students, book launches, media workshops, award ceremony, water walk for peace, exhibitions and cultural performances will be organsised at the 8th CMS VATAVARAN. The five day film festival and forum will see participation of filmmakers from 12 Indian states and 9 countries, 50 experts from the water conservation sector, students, academicians, corporate leaders, policy makers, diplomats, nature and wildlife enthusiasts. The event is open and free for all and the website [www.cmsvatavaran.org](http://www.cmsvatavaran.org) provides information on the range of programmes and registration can be done online or at the venue.

**About CMS VATAVARAN:** CMS VATAVARAN is not just a film festival celebrating the cinematic art of films but is a platform that enables **film as a tool and catalyst for creating impact**. CMS VATAVARAN remains resolute to encourage environment films and forums resulting **change in perception, practice and policy**. Since its inception in 2002, **7 competitive and 41 travelling festivals in 36 cities of 25 Indian states** have been organised. It has reached more than 500000 people directly. CMS VATAVARAN has now become a movement and inspired many organizations and individuals to use **films and film festivals as a medium to catalyse change.**

**For More Information log in at:** [**www.cmsvatavaran.org**](http://www.cmsvatavaran.org)

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