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COSTS, PRICES AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

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Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) play a fundamental role in ensuring the food and nutritional security of local communities, as well as in generating income for families living in these territories and relying on such products. In this context, the aim of this study is to identify how the topics of production costs, prices, and commercialization of NTFPs are addressed in the literature, analyzing their interactions and the main available information. The methodology adopted for selecting the studies was a systematic literature review using the Methodi Ordinatio (M.O.), which seeks to select and rank articles according to their

academic and scientific relevance. The results showed that India, Spain, and Italy stood out as countries whose articles were widely cited. Wholesale markets represent an important link in the NTFP commercialization chain. Many of these products are exported and are already available in online markets. Among the bottlenecks identified are seasonality, lack of training, and insufficient infrastructure. Overexploitation emerges as a risk factor for NTFPs, while reforestation policies were mentioned in several studies. Price increases may lead to unsustainable harvesting while simultaneously contributing to higher profitability. Although few studies address production costs, such data are essential for analyzing income derived from NTFPs. This article contributes to the debate on the importance of NTFPs and reinforces the need for interdisciplinary studies addressing the researched topics.

Palavras-chave: non-timber forest products; commercialization; production costs; prices.