

## Appendix 4.5

### Project Report

Title: Crabwood Oil Study: Equitable Use of NTFPs in Guyana: Report of the Chainsaw Operator Survey

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# **CRABWOOD OIL STUDY: Equitable Use of NTFPs in Guyana**

**PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE  
CHAINSAW OPERATOR SURVEY**

**APRIL 2002**

Winners and Losers in Forest Product Commercialisation

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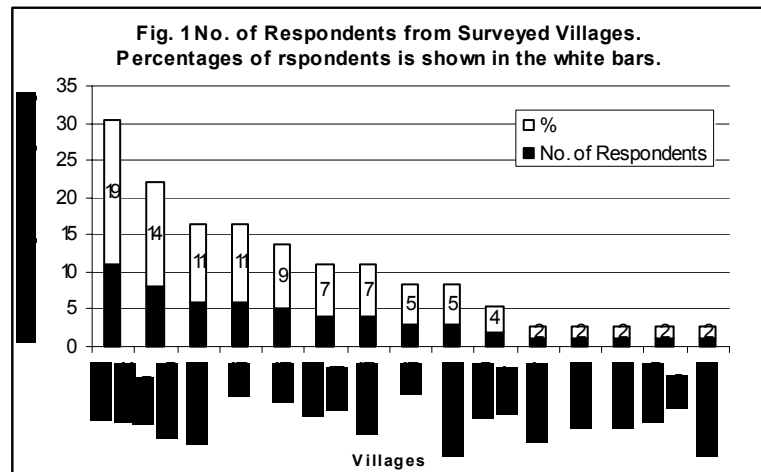
# 1. Preliminary Results for Chainsaw Operator Survey

## 1.1 Method

A survey of the Chainsaw Operators was undertaken through questionnaires to determine:

- scale of Chainsaw operation
- scales of production of Crabwood timber
- present market value
- selling prices of Crabwood timber in various sizes and forms
- uses of the Crabwood timber
- ranking of sales of Crabwood timber in comparison to other main timber species
- production costs e.g. transportation
- existing markets
- sustainability of resource

A total of 57 Chainsaw Operators were surveyed in 15 villages in Region 10 (Figure 1). The villages with the corresponding number of interviewed operators are listed in Appendix I. The largest proportion of the respondents accounting for approximately 20% (11) of the total survey were from the Weroni District while Maria Henrietta, Sand Hills and Ituni consisted of 14% (8), 11% (6) and 11% (6) respectively. The remaining 10 villages accounted for approximately 45% of the total respondents.

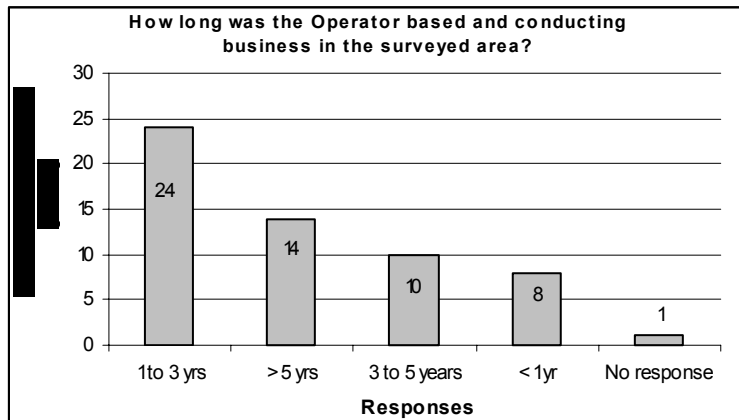


## 1.2 Profile of Chainsaw Operators

It was necessary for the survey to determine how long the operator has been working as a Chainsaw Operator in order to assess the market demand for timber over time. The results indicate that half of the respondents were working as a Chainsaw Operator for more than five years while 33% (19) had an estimated 3-5 years of experience and 18% (10) had less than 3 years.

However, only 56% (32) of the surveyed Operators was involved in sawing Crabwood lumber, of which, 23 (46%) falls in the period of 1 to 3 years while 12 (21%) are between 3 to 5 years. The survey also reported that 9 (16%) of the respondents have been involved in sawing Crabwood lumber for less than a year while 8 did not respond to the question. The survey further establish that even though half of the surveyed operators have been working for over 5 years, only 7% (4) have been involved in sawing Crabwood lumber for over 5 years.

Fewer than half of the surveyed operators have been based and operating in the respective surveyed area between 1 to 3 years (See Figure 2 below). The Operators tend to generally move to various locations depending on the availability of resources.



### 1.3 Common Uses of Crabwood Tree

The various uses of the Crabwood Timber is listed in Table 1. Most of the respondents indicated that the seeds are used for oil while the wood is typically used for furniture making and boat building. The survey reported that the wood is use to make various types of river transport including boats, canoes, another known as ‘pram’ and paddles mainly by the indigenous people. Most of the communities are typically located along the Berbice River and rely heavily on the various modes of river transport.

Most of the Crabwood are sold to the local markets in the main towns of Berbice by the Chainsaw Operators. The wood is then processed by the Sawmillers and sold widely for furniture making, constructing houses, commonly used as interior finishing and making bird cages.

Table 1 Common Uses of Crabwood	# of Responses (n=57)	%
1. Used to construct buildings; Interior finishing in houses; Making boats, furniture, birdcage and paddles	29	50.9
2. Lumber used for building boats and houses	11	19.3
3. Making various types of Boats, Canoes, Prams, Paddles	9	15.8
4. Making furniture	7	12.3
5. No response	1	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>

The survey also tried to determine whether the bark, leaves and seeds of the Crabwood tree were collected, used and/or sold by the Operators. Only 2 of the Operators said that the bark was used for purposes of treating diarrhoea and sore mouth. Iwokrama researchers felt that the field researchers were not sufficiently trained to conduct the questionnaires to determine the uses of the Crabwood tree. Therefore only some of the respondents would have answered the questions honestly if at all. None of the respondents collected and used the leaves of the Crabwood tree.

However, the survey was able to establish that 35% (20) of the Operators surveyed were also involved in collecting Crabwood seeds. Of these 20 seed collectors, 6 were selling the seeds to village members and neighbouring communities; 13 were using the seeds to make Crabwood Oil by their own household while the remaining collector was freely giving the seeds to interested members of the village. The survey also reported that 42% (24) of the relatives of the Operators are involved in making Crabwood Oil as well as the 13 respondents' households.

Some of the respondents indicated that all of the ripe or full seeds were collected from the sawn tree at the various sites. The results from the survey on the amount of seeds collected by the operators varied from 29 to 520 pounds. It was not possible from the results to determine an average amount of seeds due to the varied and imprecise responses. However, it was possible to determine that a pound of Crabwood seeds was sold for an average of GY\$8.00. The collectors used various forms of containers to place the seeds into, including 5-gallon buckets, tins and rice bags at the sites of the sawn lumber.

## 1.4 Local Markets for Timber Species

### 1.4.1 Saleable Forms of Crabwood

The survey reported that Crabwood timber is sold in two forms – logs and rough sawn lumber - by the Chainsaw Operators. The responses are outlined in Figure 3 indicating that Crabwood is mainly sold in the form of rough sawn lumber by 56% (32) of the operators in Region 10. Approximately 21% (12) of the operators sell Crabwood in both forms while 11% (6) sell only in log form. However, 12% (7) of the respondents were presently not involved in selling Crabwood timber but were selling other timber species.



### 1.4.2 Selling Prices

The undressed Crabwood lumber is being sold for an average of GY\$31.00 per board foot (bm) by the surveyed Chainsaw Operators involved in sawing Crabwood lumber. However, some of the respondents are only selling the Crabwood in the log or raw form for an average of GY\$1.67 per board foot. None of the operators were producing dressed Crabwood lumber since all of the respondents indicated that there was no equipment – plane/edger to dress the lumber in the area of operation.

### 1.4.3 Local Timber Markets

The survey tried to identify the local markets for the timber being sold by the Chainsaw Operators. The survey revealed that timber was sold to various marketing centres in the main town/s of Region 4, 5 and 6 listed in Table 2. The survey reported that the main marketing centres are located mainly in New Amsterdam, Georgetown and Rosignol. The respondents indicated that the timber is sold to traders and Sawmillers from the main towns. In some cases, the timber is sold directly to furniture makers mainly in New Amsterdam. The survey reported that the logs are loaded onto vessels such as Barges, Launch and River Steamers and shipped to New Amsterdam and the main local centres on the Coastlands.

An estimated 21% of the respondents indicated that timber is sold to the local communities. The timber is sold to various groups within the communities including villagers for home uses and to the traders who sell to the main towns. The respondents said that Crabwood is sold to the many of the communities in Region 10 mainly in Tacama and Gaetroy.

**Table 2 The main local markets for Crabwood and other timber species**

<b>Local Markets</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Total (N=57)</b>	<b>%</b>
New Amsterdam	43	57	75
Georgetown	18	57	32
Rosignol	12	57	21
Local Communities	12	57	21
Corentyne	7	57	12
West Coast Berbice e.g. No. 2 Village	5	57	9
Mona	1	57	2

### 1.4.4 Transport

A total of 53 respondents indicated that timber in both log and lumber forms are mainly transported to the main centres on the coastlands via river mainly to New Amsterdam. The main river vessels used for transporting timber include the Launch, Barge and River Steamer.

Other modes of transporting timber include by truck, cow (cart) and tractor (Table 3). In many of the cases, a combination of the various modes is used to transport timber to the local marketing centres in Region 4, 5 and 6.

**Table 3 Modes of transporting timber in Region 10**

<b>Modes of Transport</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Total (N=57)</b>	<b>%</b>
River Vessels	53	57	93
Truck	19	57	33
Tractor	8	57	14
Cow Cart	6	57	11
No response	3	57	5

## Appendix I

### List of Surveyed Villages with the corresponding Number of Operators

Surveyed Villages in Region 10	No. of Chainsaw Operators Interviewed	%
1. Weroni District	11	19.30
2. Maria Henrietta	8	14.04
3. Sand Hills	6	10.53
4. Ituni	6	10.53
5. Ebini	5	8.77
6. Torani Head	4	7.02
7. Cataballi	4	7.02
8. Sari	3	5.26
9. Coomacka	3	5.26
10. Breath Water	2	3.51
11. Helfasher	1	1.75
12. Gaetroy	1	1.75
13. Dehope	1	1.75
14. Bartica Top	1	1.75
15. Bamboose	1	1.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>

# CHAINSAW OPERATOR QUESTIONNAIRE



Name of Area: .....

Locaion: .....

1. How long have you been ripping lumber?
  
2. How long have you been sawing Crabwood lumber?
  
3. How long have you been operating in the area?
  
4. In what form do you sell Crabwood?  
 (A) Logs                      (B) Rough Sawn Lumber
  
5. What is the price per bm of your undressed crabwood lumber?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. What is the price per bm of your dressed crabwood lumber?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. In what sizes do you sell crabwood?  
 (a) 1 × 4                      (b) 2 × 4                      (c) 1 × 6                      (d) 2 × 6                      (e) 1 × 8  
 (f) 2 × 8                      (g) 1 × 10                      (h) 2 × 10                      (i) 1 × 12
  
8. What are the respective prices of these sizes of Crabwood lumber per Bm?

Form of lumber	1 × 4	2 × 4	1 × 6	2 × 6	1 × 8	2 × 8	1 × 10	2 × 10	1 × 12
Price Per bm									

9. What common uses of the crabwood do you know of?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

10. Over the past 3 years, has the price of one bm of crabwood changed? If so, by how much?

Year	1997	1998	1999
Price range			

11. On average, how many bm of rough or sawn lumber have you sold per year for the past 3 years?

Year		1997	1998	1999
Quantity sold	Rough			
	Sawn			

12. How many species of wood do you sell? \_\_\_\_\_

13. If you were to rank these species from the best selling to the lowest, how would you? (Rank from the highest to the lowest)

1	_____	6	_____
2	_____	7	_____
3	_____	8	_____
4	_____	9	_____
5	_____	10	_____

14. If you were to rank these species from the most durable to the least durable, how would you? (Rank from the highest to the lowest)

1	_____	6	_____
2	_____	7	_____
3	_____	8	_____
4	_____	9	_____
5	_____	10	_____

15. Which are the 6 best priced species of undressed lumber per bm or log?

Most expensive	1	_____
	2	_____
	3	_____
	4	_____
	5	_____
Cheapest	6	_____

16. Are all the logs ripped with a chainsaw into undressed lumber on the site?

(a) YES

(b) NO

17. If no how are logs transported?

(a) Skidded

(B) truck

(c) tractor

(d) other \_\_\_\_\_

18. How do you transport your lumber and/or logs?

(a) truck

(b) river

(c) tractor

(d) manually

(e) other \_\_\_\_\_

19. Who do you sell your lumber to?

people within the community

people from neighbouring communities

\_\_\_\_\_

names of communities

traders within the community

Traders from neighboring communities

\_\_\_\_\_

names of communities

traders from Georgetown and distant communities

\_\_\_\_\_

names of communities

others?

\_\_\_\_\_

20. What do you do with the bark of the crabwood tree? \_\_\_\_\_

21. What do you do with the leaves of the crabwood tree? \_\_\_\_\_

22. Do you also collect crabwood seeds? \_\_\_\_\_

23. If yes, how much of the seeds do you collect? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Do you sell the seeds and if so for how much? \_\_\_\_\_

25. Who do you sell the seeds to? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Do you or any relative make crab oil? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Researcher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



