

Forests can resolve food crisis

Prasun Sonwalkar

LONDON: Food from forests in India and elsewhere have much potential to address needs of nutrition and food security at a time when the limits of boosting agricultural production are becoming increasingly clear, a major report released on Wednesday said.

Bhaskar Vira, an expert based at the University of Cambridge and chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security, said many fruits and

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other crops from Indian forests are yet to be recognised as food but could help address the needs of millions.

Vira said, "Forest foods often provide a safety net during

periods of food shortages. In the study, we reveal impressive examples which show how forests and trees can complement agricultural production and contribute to the income of local people, especially in the most vulnerable regions of the world."

The report 'Forests, trees and landscapes for food security and nutrition: A global assessment', by the International Union of Forest Research Organisations, was released at an event of the United Nations Forum on Forests in New York.