



Kendu Leaf

[Source: DTE](#)

Villages of Odisha, are awaiting government **deregulation on kendu (Tendu) leaves** to manage their trade independently under the [Forest Rights Act \(FRA\), 2006](#).

- Odisha is India's **3rd-largest kendu leaf producer after Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh**, contributing around 4.5–5 lakh quintals annually, nearly 20% of national output.

Kendu Leaf

- **Botanical Name:** *Diospyros melanoxylon* (leaves)
- **Common Use:** Wrapper for beedis (local hand-rolled cigarettes)
- **Economic Significance:** Kendu leaf, a nationalised product like bamboo and sal seed, is a major [Non-Timber Forest Produce \(NTFP\)](#), often called “**green gold**” and a key income source for tribals, women, and widows.
- **Legal Status:** Covered under [Minor Forest Produce \(MFP\)](#) as per **FRA, 2006**

Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006

- The **FRA, 2006** recognizes and grants **forest rights to forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers** lacking formal land titles despite generations of residence.
 - It grants **individual rights** over cultivated land, **MFP rights** to collect and sell non-timber produce, **community rights** over traditional forest use, **habitat rights** for [PVTGs](#), and [Community Forest Resource \(CFR\) rights](#) to manage and conserve forests. **Gram Sabha approval** is mandatory for diversion of forest land.
- The FRA overrides conflicting state laws like the **Odisha Kendu Leaf (Control of Trade) Act**.

Tendu / Coromandel Ebony



Botanical Name: *Diospyros melanoxylon*

Image source: efloraindia

About this tree

Habit

- Deciduous tree
- Medium size
- Slow growing

Specific properties

- Drought tolerant
- High degree of mortality mainly due to grazing, cutting, leaf plucking and fires

Propagation: Seeds

Ecology

- Fruit preferred by fruit bats and birds, notably hornbills
- Leaves and fruits are food for sloth bear, langurs
- Host plant for Baronet and Common Silverline butterflies

Uses

- Contributes to socio-economic livelihood of tribal people in India
- Fruit is consumed by tribes in different forms as pulp, paste, powder and fruit wine
- Leaves are used to make beedi, a traditional cigarette
- Leaves are used in treatment of scabies, old wounds, as laxative and against digestive problems
- Fruit is used in treating digestive disorders, urinary, skin and blood diseases
- Timber

Read More: [Tribal Ministry's Directive on Forest Right Act, 2006.](#)

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