Assessment of Trees Outside Forests (TOF) as Potential Food Source in Second District, Makati City

Urban trees provide important ecological, aesthetic, social, and economic benefits to the communities with the expanding urban areas and population needing more food. The Trees Outside Forest (TOF) present potential contribution to food security and complement the services provided by intact forests hence, there is the need to identify them in the urban areas like Makati City. The study aims to identify and assess the TOF covered in the urban areas and determine the extent of potential food sources. Google Earth Imagery was used to digitize the other lands and assessed the TOF based on the FAO decision tree algorithm. Field assessment was done to identify the edible fruit-bearing trees and validate the tree height in the TOF criteria. Following the GIS-based Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation (Bantayan, 2006) grid system, cells containing edible fruit-bearing TOF were marked. Results show that the extent of cells with TOF as potential food source are scattered throughout the district. Most of the identified TOF are utilized by the communities for direct consumption. The assessment of TOF in urban areas can be used to account for the services it provides to the community. Planting of fruit-bearing trees and management of TOF using high-resolution images in urban areas should be promoted to improve food access.

**Keywords**: Trees Outside Forest, Urban Trees, Decision Tree Algorithm, Google Earth, Food Access

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