

TERRA MADRE

1,600 Food Communities



Slow Food Editore

TERRA MADRE 2006



Kashmir Saffron producers

A spice, a natural colorant and a plant with medicinal properties, saffron has been grown in this region for centuries. The oldest book of Indian history mentions it as long ago as the times of Alexander the Great's invasion in 326 B.C. The most important religious ceremonies call for the use of saffron. The Muslims of Kashmir serve tea with saffron during weddings and holidays, and the Hindu kings of the past used to decorate their foreheads with it when they were crowned. More than 500 members of the community are involved in the difficult cultivation of this plant, which need a particular terrain and climate and constant care. The precious red stamens are found inside the violet flower of *Crocus sativus*, which is picked by hand in the autumn. 50,000 stamens are needed to produce 100 grams of saffron, which is why the product is so costly.

PRODUCTION AREA

Srinagar, State of Jammu and Kashmir

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

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Kotagiri Honey producers

In the northwestern part of the State of Tamil Nadu, amidst the dense vegetation of the Nilgiris hills (a Biosphere Reserve), the indigenous community of Irulas and Kurumbas gather the honey produced by a wild variety of bee (*Apis dorsata*). In the past these groups lived in the forest, feeding on its products, and honey was an important commodity to trade with the other communities in the area. Today, having settled at the edges of the forest, the Irulas and Kurumbas continue to practice this traditional activity. To reach the honeycombs built by the bees on trees and high rocks, they make cords and ladders out of plants. Gathered from April to July before the monsoon season, the honey is sold directly and indirectly at the local level. During this phase the community is given assistance so that the product is purchased at a fair price.

PRODUCTION AREA

Kotagiri, State of Tamil Nadu

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

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