

Traditional Knowledge Associated with use of *Acca sellowiana*: Promoting Conservation through a Non-timber Forest Product

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This study describes traditional knowledge associated with the use of *Acca sellowiana* by rural communities in southern Brazil. The natural distribution of this species parallels that of the Araucaria forest; consequently strategies to conserve this species also promote forest conservation.

We used semi-structured interviews and participant observations to characterize knowledge associated with the use of this species and to construct "use diversity values". Most informants identified 12 different uses for *A. sellowiana*, including medicinal uses and candies with diversity values of 0.27 and 0.23, respectively. However, only six informants derived income based on use of *A. sellowiana*. *A. sellowiana* receives limited recognition as a source of rural income. Traditional knowledge suggested potential economic uses and management approaches for securing larger conservation goals.

We suggest several participatory actions to stimulate use and management of *A. sellowiana*, including local farm fairs for exchange of information and plant products. Organization of workshops for processing sweets, jams and beverages could provide options for extra income and, at the same time stimulate fruit use and conservation.

Keywords: feijoa, non-timber forest product, participatory research, *in situ farm* conservation

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